

### Bomb wounds three in Algerian town

PARIS (R) — A homemade bomb lightly wounded three people in the Algerian town of Blida on Monday, eyewitnesses said. They told Reuters by telephone that the bomb went off in a car port in the centre of the town, which lies some 50 km south of Algiers. There was no official comment on the blast. Last Thursday a bomb killed two people and wounded around 20 in an Algiers cinema. Algerian officials have blamed Muslim fundamentalists seeking to overthrow the authorities for the violence, including bomb attacks, in which about 60,000 people have been killed in more than five years.

# Jordan Times

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### Supermarket destroyed in latest Bahrain fire

MANAMA (AFP) — A fire destroyed a supermarket Monday in the centre of the Bahraini capital, Manama, but there were no casualties, witnesses said. Three fire vehicles battled for several hours to contain the fire, and residents of the building that housed the supermarket were evacuated, the witnesses said. Bahraini authorities said the origin of the fire was not yet known. A series of explosions and fires of criminal origin have occurred in recent weeks in Bahrain, which has been shaken by periodic anti-government unrest since December 1994. Eight Bahrainis were sentenced last week to between one and five years in prison for setting fire to 13 cars at a dealership and burning commercial premises and private cars. On June 13, four Indians died in an arson attack on a carpet store in Manama.

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### Deaf-mute Palestinian youth shot by soldiers

RAFAH (AFP) — A deaf and dumb Palestinian teenager was shot in the head and seriously wounded here Sunday night apparently after he failed to hear warnings sounded by Israeli soldiers guarding a Jewish settlement, according to witnesses. The soldiers opened fire on the 14-year-old youth as he was walking along a path on a piece of ground claimed by both Palestinians and Jews in the Morag settlement outside Rafah.

### FIS leader's sons jailed

DUSSELDORF (AFP) — Two sons of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leader Abassi Madani were sentenced to more than two years in jail Monday for membership of a criminal organisation and forging documents. Salim Abassi, 30, was jailed for 32 months and his brother Ibbal, 25, for 28 months.

### Kurds killed in clashes with Turkish forces

ANKARA (AFP) — More than 50 separatists of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) died in weekend clashes with Turkish security forces, the Anadolu news agency reported here Monday. Anadolu, quoting official sources, said the 51 dead included 33 armed Kurdish militants who died near Baskale in Turkey's south-eastern Van region. Ten injured rebels were also captured. The report follows an announcement by the Turkish military on Saturday that it had withdrawn most of its troops from northern Iraq after a five-week operation in which it dealt a "crushing blow" to separatist Turkish Kurds. A total of 2,601 PKK members and 99 Turkish troops have died in fighting in northern Iraq since May 14 when the army entered the area, it added. The PKK said last week that its losses were fewer than 150.

### At least 15 workers killed in mine explosion in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — At least 15 workers were killed and another 23 seriously injured in an explosion at a coal mine in Iran, the evening newspaper Kayhan reported Monday. The official IRNA news agency reported earlier Monday that eight people were killed and 31 injured in Sunday's blast at the Sang-Rud Lochan mine in Gilan province. Kayhan reported that the accident was caused by a short-circuit, and (that) the death toll was expected to rise because of the size of the blast.

### Three jailed, face 80 lashes for raping Filipina

DUBAI (AFP) — An Islamic court has jailed three Emiratis for 10 years and ordered each to be lashed at least 80 times for raping a Filipina, a newspaper in the United Arab Emirates reported on Monday. The Gulf News said the three men broke into the Filipina's house in the emirate of Fujairah. She was kidnapped and raped. The Fujairah court, in its June 15 ruling, handed one of the convicts an additional year in prison and an extra 100 lashes "for committing adultery with the same woman," said the paper.

## Arafat welcomes Denver summit stance on Mideast peace process

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat welcomed on Monday a call by the leaders of the world's eight top democracies which backed the principle of land for peace in the peace process with Israel.

"The Palestinian leadership warmly welcomes the statement of the economic summit in Denver on protecting the Middle East peace process," Mr. Arafat said, quoted by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

"We hope Israel will adhere to its commitments

under signed peace accords particularly by stopping all unilateral acts, such as settlement activity and the confiscation of lands," he said.

The leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States issued the statement at the conclusion of their economic summit in the United States city of Denver on Sunday.

"The peace process faces a crisis and we are determined to reinject momentum into it," they said.

"We shall do our utmost

to reinvigorate implementation of the Oslo accords and to uphold the principles of Madrid, including the exchange of land-for-peace," they said.

"Both sides must refrain from actions that impeded the peace process by pre-empting permanent status negotiations," they warned. The Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 calls on Israel to hand over land seized in the 1967 war in exchange for security and other guarantees from its Arab neighbours.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has balked at the idea of land-for-peace and accused the Palestinians of failing to deliver on security commitments contained in the 1993 Oslo accords.

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been deadlocked since March 18 when Israel broke ground on a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians hope will be the capital of a future state.

## Arafat says woman suicide bomber detained; Albright reported saying Arafat done several stupid things, but what's the alternative?

TEL AVIV (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said in remarks published Monday his security forces detained a woman last week on her way to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel.

"Last Thursday, we detained a young Palestinian woman poised to carry out a suicide attack in Israel," the Israeli Maariv newspaper quoted Mr. Arafat as saying in an interview.

"She left a will with her parents where she wrote: 'Forgive me for what I did'. We immediately launched a search and, thank God, we succeeded in catching her before she managed to carry out her plan," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charges that Mr. Arafat is not doing enough to crack down on Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two militant Islamic groups opposing Israeli-PNA.

Israeli troops arrested three Hamas activists near Nablus in a pre-dawn sweep Monday, Palestinians said. They gave no more details.

The bombing followed Israel's groundbreaking on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem which deadlocked peacemaking with the PNA.

Mr. Arafat, who views Israeli settlement building as a violation of peace accords, warned of regional

turmoil if the three-month impasse with Israel is not resolved.

"The whole area will slide into turmoil. I'm telling you the whole area. Not only between ourselves and the Israelis, but in the whole Middle East," he told the newspaper.

Another Israeli newspaper quoted U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as telling an Israeli official that while Mr. Arafat had recently done "several

Israel's envoy to U.S. says he has no idea about scope of settlement building

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's ambassador to Washington acknowledged in a letter published Monday that he has no idea about the scope of Jewish settlement construction even though this is one of the key issues on the Israeli-U.S. agenda.

The confidential letter by

Ambassador Eliyahu Ben Elissar to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy was published in the Yediot Ahronot daily. In the letter, Mr. Ben Elissar

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An Israeli border police patrol checks the identity of an Arab on a Tel Aviv beach Sunday. Police stepped up patrols on Israel's Mediterranean beaches Sunday and placed checkpoints at Tel Aviv's main entrances after an attempted shoreside bombing was foiled by a thief (AFP Photo)

## Israel's Netanyahu grapples with rebellious allies as no-confidence vote set for Tuesday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu struggled Monday to avert a setback in parliament, trying to placate political allies who accused him of breaking promises and mismanaging his government.

Little more than a year into office, the 47-year-old prime minister came under pressure from coalition members demanding help for constituents and control of ministries he was due to dish out in a cabinet reshuffle.

By all accounts Mr. Netanyahu would defeat no-confidence votes scheduled for Tuesday in the 120-seat Knesset and brought by opposition parties critical of his administration.

It remained to be seen, however, how many of the coalition members who make up Mr. Netanyahu's 66-54 majority would embarrass him and abstain as an expression of their disaffection. "Regrettably, we are talking about a huge number of personal and

selfish interests," said Michael Eitan, the member of parliament from Mr. Netanyahu's rightist Likud Party who acts as chief of the coalition faction.

It was even unclear who would defend the government in parliament since the woman assigned to the job, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, angrily resigned Saturday as coordinator between the government and parliament.

Speaking to reporters Mr. Netanyahu voiced confidence his opponents would fall short of the 61 votes required to force new elections for both prime minister and parliament. "We have a government which will continue. The coalition is stable. There are problems — they'll be solved," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said the Israeli leader still intended to put his new ministerial appointments to votes in cabinet and parliament also

Livnat quits job as government liaison in parliament

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications minister resigned as the government's liaison to parliament Sunday, further undermining the prime minister's attempts to hold his coalition together.

Limor Livnat said she was abandoning the post of spokeswoman to parliament because she could not defend government policy during a parliamentary no-confidence vote scheduled for Tuesday.

She did not resign as communications minister but her decision to step down as liaison weakens Mr. Netanyahu, coming after the resignation of two ministers and two days before the no-confidence vote.

"When I thought that I

## Majali warns if Arab states do not shape own regional order, it will be imposed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali concluded a three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he relayed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, dealing with the Middle East peace process, current Arab issues and bilateral relations.

Dr. Majali said in Abu Dhabi that Jordan extends a hand to all Arab countries in order to work together for solidarity and cooperation in strengthening the Arab regional order.

"Jordan believes that Arabs now are passing through a critical stage and facing the prospects of a new regional order. If we

are united, we can be partners in shaping up this regional order but if we are not, a regional order will be imposed on us and it might not be in our interest," said the prime minister in an interview with Abu Dhabi TV.

He said: "We are keen on this issue and my visit to the UAE for talks with its leaders fall within the framework of achieving solidarity," noting that he is going to Tunisia then to Bahrain and Egypt, stressing the visits are aimed at achieving close relations among Arab countries. He said: "We are not demanding the impossible but we seek the minimum level of solidarity."

Referring to talks with UAE leaders, Dr. Majali

said that he also discussed the obstacles impeding Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, caused mainly by the Israeli leadership and the obstacles it is laying in the path of peace.

He said: "We believe that peace is an international strategic option and not a tactical move and that the whole world seeks peace."

The prime minister met Monday with UAE Minister of Defence Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum and discussed Jordanian-UAE relations and issues of common concern. They also reviewed the peace process and the Israeli failure to implement the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians.

## Israeli woman wounded as car is stoned in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli woman was injured in the West Bank Sunday when her car overturned after it was stoned while passing a Palestinian village in the Hebron area, security sources said.

They said the woman was taken by ambulance from the road near Sourif village to a Jerusalem hospital for treatment for mostly light wounds.

Tensions in the West Bank have been on the rise over a three-month deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace moves and Israel's expansion of Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Arab east

Jerusalem. Clashes between stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli troops raged all week in Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live and study in fortified enclaves in the heart of the city of 100,000 Arabs.

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said in a sharply worded statement released Saturday that Israeli settlement expansion in areas captured by the Jewish state in 1967 had spurred the unrest and warned that patience on the Palestinian streets was wearing thin.

"The arming of Jewish settlers and the protection offered to them by Israeli sol-

diers while they continuously attack Palestinian landowners will not leave our masses any choice but to confront these aggressions using all available means," the statement said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai called on the PNA to do more to curb confrontations, saying that unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will lead to casualties mainly on the Palestinian side.

"I hope that the PNA and other forces in the area will use their influence to prevent unnecessary confrontations which will cause casualties mainly on the Palestinian side," Mr. Mordechai said.

## Eran plays down Sharon's expected effect on relations

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran Monday played down fears that a possible appointment of the former Israeli army general Ariel Sharon to the post of finance minister will worsen trade between the two countries.

"I think if Mr. Sharon becomes minister of finance... the appointment could be a very constructive development."

"Mr. Sharon is known for his powers of implementation, and I think this could be constructive and far from a provocation," Mr. Eran said in a press conference.

"The fact is that once Mr. Sharon and His Majesty [King Hussein] met in Aqaba, immediately following this meeting, additional water started to flow from the Sea of Galilee to Jordan," he said.

"There are certain areas where a strong economic minister could push for intensive cooperation between the two countries. I don't think that his views in the past are necessarily a provocation and an attempt to derail the peace process," said Mr. Eran.

The ambassador was commenting on reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering to appoint Mr. Sharon as a new finance minister.

Mr. Eran said Israel wants



Israeli Ambassador in Amman Oded Eran speaks to reporters on Monday (Photo by Yousef 'Ailan)

Jordan to be involved in the final status negotiations with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to decide the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Jordan will play a central role when we start the negotiations with our Palestinian partners on the final status negotiations... there will be a need for a very deep, honest and direct dialogue between Israel and Jordan," Mr. Eran said in a press conference.

"I think through this dialogue, we could improve chances of a very solid final status agreement which will be stable and which will bring into consideration all the interests of the direct parties involved," said Mr. Eran, who has assumed his post in Amman two months ago.

Israel and the PNA were scheduled to enter final negotiations in 1998, with

hot issues such as Jerusalem and refugees to be on the agenda.

Mr. Eran said that despite three years of peace between Jordan and Israel there are still differences and "psychological" barriers that hinder trade cooperation between the two countries.

"The difficulties are a result of the lack of experience on both sides, when it comes to the ways of cooperation, how trade is done in Jordan and how trade is done in Israel," the ambassador said.

"There are difficulties which result from the fact that there are problems of security. There are problems which were created by the fact that we have different systems when it comes to transportation," he added.

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## International truce panel meets to discuss Lebanese, Israeli complaints

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a cease-fire in south Lebanon started meeting Monday to discuss Lebanese and Israeli complaints over alleged truce violations, officials said.

The panel — made up of France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States — convened at 11:00 a.m. at the U.N. headquarters in the town of Naqoura near the Israeli border, Lebanese officials said.

Lebanon lodged a complaint over the shelling Saturday night of the Christian village of Maghdushah near the southern port city of Sidon. It has also protested at threats by Israeli army officers to imprison all men in Amoun, expel their women, burn their crops and destroy their homes if resistance guerrillas carried out anti-Israeli attacks from the village. Amoun is close to the Israeli-occupied border zone in south Lebanon. Two shells fired from Marjayoun, the headquarters of the Israeli army and its allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, fell on the village.

Lebanon said both the shelling and the threats were "clear" violations of the April 1996 ceasefire agreement. The truce committee was set up to monitor the April accord, which put an end to Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive into Lebanon last year and banned targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

Israel last week filed a complaint with the committee over roadside bombings in Jezzine carried out by guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Shiite Hizbollah which killed four people in south Lebanon. Lebanese authorities said the four casualties were not civilians but SLA militiamen and thus military targets.

Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of the buffer zone it set up inside south Lebanon in 1985 to prevent cross-border attacks.



A group of mothers of Israeli soldiers posted in Lebanon on Monday hold a demonstration demanding the government bring the boys home (Reuters photo)

## Israel marks 1982 invasion of Lebanon, says wants out

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said at a ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon that it wanted a deal to pull its occupation forces out.

But Mr. Mordechai vowed at the memorial ceremony for Israel's 1982 invasion to continue fighting Shiite Hizbollah guerrillas in the south Lebanon occupation zone it set up in 1985 until a deal was reached.

"We have no interest in remaining

in Lebanon. We want to get out in an agreement that will ensure security and peace for the residents of the north of the state... and the citizens of south Lebanon."

"We will continue to act with all means at our disposal on the one hand to reach an agreement and on the other to support our soldiers and officers to continue the holy war for all of us."

Mr. Mordechai last week asked France, once colonial overlord in Lebanon, to help Israel find a way

to withdraw its troops.

France has periodically tried in talks with Syria, Lebanon and Israel to negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the south Lebanon zone Israel patrols with its South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon with 35,000 troops there. Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas regularly attack Israeli troops and the SLA to try to oust them from the 15-kilometre-wide occupation zone.

## S. Arabia releases money for housing in Jerusalem

GAZA CITY (AP) — Saudi Arabia will give the Palestinians \$19 million to build 600 homes in Jerusalem and strengthen their hold over parts of the occupied city, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday.

Construction will begin within six weeks, and Palestinians planning to build homes can apply for loans to be paid for with the Saudi money, said Faisal Hussein, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem.

The \$19 million are part of a total of \$50 million which Saudi Arabia earmarked for Palestinian housing and infrastructure projects in Arab east Jerusalem and deposited two years ago in the Islamic Development Bank. The Saudis stipulated at the time that the money could

only be withdrawn for large-scale housing projects.

Palestinian officials have said Israel was not issuing permits for large-scale Palestinian housing projects, and last week, Saudi Arabia decided to make some of the money available to individual homeowners, Mr. Hussein told a news conference in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Hussein said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have pledged \$600 million for 15,000 Arab housing units, but that most of the money remains in the banks because Israel has not given Palestinians the building permits.

Israel and the Palestinians are engaged in a fierce battle over Jerusalem, a city of 422,000 Jews and 180,000 Palestinians. Israel occu-

pied Arab east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and the Palestinians want the eastern sector as a future capital.

In mid-March, Israel began construction of a 6,500-apartment Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, prompting the Palestinians to halt all contacts with Israel. In an attempt to appease the Palestinians, Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu has said his government would issue 3,000 building permits for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Palestinians and Israeli human rights groups have said Israel is not issuing enough building permits for Palestinians in order to keep their share of the population in the city at 28 per cent or below.

## Swarm of locusts invades Yemen

SANAA (R) — A swarm of locusts, which have destroyed large stretches of Yemeni farmland in the past, has crossed into the country over its northeastern borders, an official at the ministry of agriculture said on Monday.

He said the locusts had entered into the northeastern governorate of Sa'dah on Sunday.

"We are expecting new swarms of desert locusts to invade Yemen in the coming period from neighbouring countries, mainly from Saudi Arabia and Sudan," said a statement by Mohammad Ghashm, director general of plant protection at the ministry of

agriculture. Mr. Ghashm said the Yemeni authorities were monitoring the movement of the locusts and preparing to fight the infestation, which could threaten large areas of Yemeni farmland.

The migratory insects, which devastated some of Yemen's agricultural areas in October 1995, fly in swarms each containing 12 million to hundreds of millions of locusts, experts said.

Locusts also invaded Yemen in 1992 and 1993, destroying large cultivated areas. Sorghum is among the main crops in Yemen, one of the region's poorest countries.

## Israel rejects criticism after U.N. troops wounded in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army rejected on Monday charges that it was responsible for an incident in which six U.N. peacekeepers from Ireland were wounded by an Israeli land mine in occupied south Lebanon.

One Irish soldier lost a leg and five were lightly wounded Saturday during a mine-clearing operation near a U.N. position in the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in south Lebanon.

A spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Timur Goksel, accused the Israeli military and the allied South Lebanon Army of having previously announced that a road through the minefield had been cleared at the request of the peace keepers to make it easier to supply their base.

When the Irish troops moved onto the road, they discovered several mines, one of which exploded during the clearing operation.

An Israeli army spokesman denied U.N. charges that barbed wire and warning signs around the minefield had been removed.

"The minefield was marked and surrounded by barbed wire," the spokesman said.

"The Israeli army rejects UNIFIL accusations that it was responsible for this accident," the spokesman said.

## Iran offers help to Arab, C. Asian neighbours in fight against drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran Monday offered to help its Arab and Central Asian neighbours to combat growing drug trafficking in the region.

"Unfortunately, drugs have found their way to the Gulf Arab states. We offer our aid to battle this plague," Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati told a press conference. "Iran is determined to fight drugs with force."

He voiced regret over the "lack of international cooperation" to fight narcotic trafficking, warning that European countries, notably France and Germany, were the main victims.

Tehran, which already cooperates with the U.N. and Pakistan in drug-related matters, is to sign similar

agreements with Russia, the minister said.

Iran is a transit route for narcotics coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan destined for European and Middle East markets. But amid tough anti-drug laws, traffickers are turning to routes through Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Mr. Besharati charged that Afghanistan and Pakistan each produced around 6,000 tonnes and 500 tonnes of opium per year, much of which found their way to Europe via Iran.

He said Iran seized each year nearly half of the total opium discovered in the world and 34 per cent of heroin.

The minister also voiced concern over the absence of a political authority in neighbouring Afghanistan

which he said accounted for the rise in drug production in the war-torn country.

"There is no one to talk to in Afghanistan," he complained, charging that opium was grown at a "large scale" in areas controlled by the Taliban Islamic militia, which rules over two-thirds of Afghanistan.

Mr. Besharati said 200 Iranian troops had been killed and 500 others wounded in clashes with armed drug traffickers in the past four years.

Iran banned the cultivation of opium poppies and other drugs after the 1979 Islamist revolution. Anti-drug laws were toughened in 1989, calling for the death penalty for anyone caught with at least five kilograms of opium or

30 grammes of heroin.

According to official figures, 191 tonnes of narcotics, including 11 tonnes of morphine, were seized during the year to March 1997.

Mohammad Flah, the head of Iran's anti-drug squad, said Saturday that the Islamic Republic was winning the battle against drug traffickers, but losing the fight to stem demand at home.

Some 500,000 Iranians are said to be addicted to various narcotics, but opium is widely used here recreationally.

The authorities are to set fire to 50 tonnes of various drugs Tuesday in the presence of the diplomats and the media.

## Saudi Prince Waleed in Beirut Planet Hollywood restaurant

### Prince concludes deal with Lebanese partner

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's billionaire Prince Al Waleed Ben Talal said Monday he has forged a partnership with a Lebanese businessman to open a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Beirut. A statement from the prince's office in the Saudi capital Riyadh said he has concluded a partnership agreement with Lebanese businessman Khalid Ali Hammoud to "develop and operate a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Beirut."

It said Centre Point, the company controlling the project, is 49 per cent owned by the prince and 51 per cent by Hammoud.

The restaurant is due to open in 1998 in Beirut, which already has a Planet Hollywood merchandise store, it said.

"I am pleased to participate in the company's first Middle Eastern operation and have great faith in Lebanon's ability to gain back its position as a leisure, cultural and commercial centre," the prince said in the statement. Lebanon is still recovering from a 1975-90 civil war.

The prince and Planet Hollywood International Inc. in April formed a strategic pact in which the prince would develop up to 34 Planet Hollywood

restaurant-merchandise units in 23 states.

Prince Waleed also bought one per cent of Planet Hollywood's common outstanding stock from the company. Initially the prince said he planned to open Planet Hollywood units in Brussels, Athens, Cairo, Lisbon, Istanbul and Budapest and to take an interest in the Beirut unit. The prince, a nephew of Saudi King Fahd, has a huge international portfolio of investments worth billions of dollars ranging from hotels, theme parks, banks, real estate, computers and airlines.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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### PROGRAMME TWO

3:00 ..... Holy Koran  
3:35 Soccer Match — Chile vs Ecuador  
5:00 ..... Square One  
5:10 ..... Album  
Show  
6:10 ..... French Programmes  
7:00 ..... News in French  
7:30 ..... News Headline  
7:35 ..... Coach  
8:00 ..... Tilt  
8:30 ..... Encounter  
9:10 ..... Nature of Things  
10:00 ..... News in English  
10:30 ..... West Beach  
11:15 ..... Drug Wars

### PRAYER TIMES

03:51 ..... Fajr  
05:26 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
12:38 ..... Dhuhr  
16:18 ..... 'Asr  
19:49 ..... Maghreb  
21:25 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish. Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel.  
616757.

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622366  
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Armenian Catholic Church  
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Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.

Amman International Church  
Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 843457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

The weather will be relatively hot and temperatures above seasonal average. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. On Wednesday and Thursday another drop in temperatures will take place and temperatures will be around seasonal average. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... 21/33  
Aqaba ..... 26/42  
Deserts ..... 19/37  
Jordan Valley ..... 24/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 32, Aqaba 26 Humidity  
readings: Amman 42 per cent,  
Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh ..... 736011

Dr. Jihad Sammour ..... 675018

Dr. Khaldoun Asfour  
..... 699440  
Dr. Anis Hawamdeh ..... 832350  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Zakariya Malkawi ..... 218615  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Akram Haddad ..... 985550  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Dept ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192 621111,  
637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department  
..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints  
..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory  
assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs  
661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority  
..... 815615  
Electric Power Company  
636381  
RJ Flight Information  
0853200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-  
53200

HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Hussain Medical Centre  
813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 644281/6  
Aklieh Maternity ..... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity

..... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mnashar Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marika ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital  
602340/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart  
and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital  
..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
..... (09)990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital  
..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital  
..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital  
..... (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA  
AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:05 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
08:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:20 ..... Muscat (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
10:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:10 New York, Amsterdam  
(RJ)  
18:30 ..... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:45 ..... London, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights  
06:05 London, Damascus (BA)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
16:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
18:05 ..... Kiev (LU)  
19:15 ..... Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (MS)  
21:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:50 ..... Aden (TY)  
23:35 ..... Lameca (CY)  
01:25 ..... Jakarta (GA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal,  
Toronto (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:05 ..... London (RJ)  
14:05 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:40 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:25 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore  
(RJ)

Other Flights  
08:55 ..... Damascus, London (KJ)  
04:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
17:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
19:05 ..... Kiev (LU)  
20:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
22:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:50 ..... Aden (TY)  
01:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
02:25 ..... London (GA)  
02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Athens (OA)



## Media unit, to assist women candidates, officially inaugurated at JNFW

By Rana Hussein and  
Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — A media unit, designed to assist women candidates in executing their election campaigns, was Monday officially inaugurated at the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW).

"The idea behind the establishment of the media unit was motivated by those women candidates [who were] in need of basic services to organise their election campaigns," Director of Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre (PBWRC) Farah Daghistani said.

Addressing a gathering at the Queen Zein Complex for Social Development, Ms. Daghistani described services provided by the unit as encouraging women candidates as well as granting them equitable opportunities as those which their male counterparts currently enjoy to manage and organise their election campaigns in a methodical fashion.

The unit will provide candidates with myriad services including document transcription, advertisement design, and creation of statements and banners as well as media consultation services.

The unit will also provide archives covering both previous and current elections as well as analysis of electoral lists to help candidates discern the strong and weak points of the 1989 and 1993 elections.

A daily brief of newspaper



Director of Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre (PBWRC) Farah Daghistani Monday officially inaugurates a media unit, designed to assist women candidates in executing their election campaigns (Petra photo)

clippings related to the elections and opposing candidates will be provided to the candidates as well as a monthly newsletter covering women in elections.

The unit was constructed by PBWRC in cooperation with the European Union and the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) at the University of Jordan.

According to Ms. Daghistani, the unit will help women effect strong campaigns, complete with campaign speeches and slogans representative of their individual political stands.

"Our goal is common, and we have to stand together to accomplish it," she added. Woman activists and politi-

cians have continuously voiced concern over the low turnout of women candidates and voters in the parliamentary elections of 1993 and 1989.

During the 1989 elections, all 12 women running for Parliament were unsuccessful.

According to observers, these discouraging results resulted in a mere three women running for the 1993 elections. In those last elections, one woman, Toujan Faisal, won a seat in the Lower House.

Women activists also criticised the one-person, one-vote system, stating that it had diminished women's chances of reaching Parlia-

ment in 1993 and would equally lessen their chances in the upcoming elections. They described the new voting system as "discriminatory, backwards and strengthening tribalism while contradicting civil rights and national affiliations."

Deputy Faisal, who attended Monday's meeting with the women candidates, maintained that the newly established unit would aid women better organise their election campaigns.

"During the 1993 elections, I did not run my campaign systematically — an important factor provided by the unit," Ms. Faisal asserted.

## Deputy, farmers lament demolition of homes

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of families, including that of (Balqa) Deputy Ali Shati, whose homes, built on state land, were Sunday bulldozed in Deir Alla. Monday asserted that they would petition His Majesty King Hussein to redress the situation and order the cessation of further demolitions.

A bulldozer, belonging to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Sunday destroyed seven partially constructed uninhabited houses and water irrigation projects in the village of Dirar.

According to eyewitnesses, the village residents attempted to halt the operation and hurled stones and rocks at police.

Several people, including police officers and the parents of Deputy Shati, a representative of the central Jordan Valley, were injured in the process.

Reports in local press put the number of injured police officers at 16 and civilians at 23. However, police officials were not available Monday to confirm the reports.

Although the land is state-owned and registered in the name of the Ministry of Agriculture and the JVA, residents

claimed the right to own it.

"My father has lived on this land since 1982, and we have since been paying rent to the government for the use of these lands," Yousef Shati, 45, the deputy's brother, explained.

He added that the majority of houses demolished in the past two days were "skeletons" and consisted only of a foundation and support columns, "built by farmers to ensure that their children would have an established residence for the future."

However, JVA Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh declared that the bulldozing of houses in Dirar village was effected under judicial authorisation.

"We are attempting to organise, as individuals have been attempting to exploit state lands, and we are merely following court orders," Dr. Mahasneh stated.

Dr. Mahasneh Monday told the Jordan Times that the JVA has been offering house units to those who already reside thereupon at the price of JD 300 per unit (300 to 500 square metres).

"Although some individuals have paid the fees, others want to abuse [the system] by occupying the land without paying," the

JVA official said.

However, according to Mr. Shati, who is a farmer, JD 300 is a steep price for farmers in that area.

"Most farmers are indebted to banks or other lending institutions, as they are in need of financial support for agricultural purposes," he said. "A majority of these are supporting families composed of nine or ten members."

Mr. Shati accused the government of targeting the farmers, "but neglecting to take action against rich and influential individuals who seize government lands."

Dr. Mahasneh denied these allegations, stressing that the government will take action against any and all violators.

"We have no authority to refuse a court order to demolish any kind of construction on state lands, and we will apply court orders regardless of the individuals in question," he asserted.

In a related incident in April, one man was killed when police attempted to evict families from their homes in Salhiyet Abed, east of Amman.

At the time, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid affirmed that the government was planning to terminate any individual

occupation of state lands, adding that the government had plans to halt abuses of government lands.

Mr. Shati claimed that police apprehended approximately 30 persons subsequent to the clashes Sunday.

"Deputy (Ali) Shati has contacted HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent, in an effort to release those detained," he said.

According to Mr. Shati, three houses are to be demolished as stipulated by court order.

"We appeal to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the prime minister to cease the demolition, release the persons detained and compensate us for our losses," Mr. Shati concluded.

A coalition of 11 opposition parties Monday condemned the operation and stated "the minister of interior should bear the responsibility for Sunday's incident."

In a statement fayed to the Jordan Times, opposition parties called for punishing the concerned parties "for misuse of authority and arbitrary attacks against citizens."

## Kuwait Airways sets date for first flight to Jordan

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Monday confirmed that it would make its first flight to Jordan next month since air links were suspended following the Iraqi 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

KAC Chairman and Managing Director Ahmad Al-Mishari told the Kuwaiti Official News Agency KUNA that his

airline has scheduled twice-weekly flights to Amman, every Wednesday and Friday, as of July 9.

Mr. Mishari confirmed that Royal Jordanian will fly to Kuwait every Monday and Thursday.

Kuwait's national flag carrier said Sunday it had reached an agreement with Royal Jordanian on restoring air links subse-

quent to talks in Amman.

Kuwait froze links with Jordan, including suspending direct flights, after accusing Amman of supporting Iraq during the seven-month occupation of the emirate between August 1990 and February 1991.

According to diplomats, relations between Kuwait and Jordan have been improving, although full

diplomatic ties are not expected to be restored in the immediate future.

Kuwait has a charge d'affaires in Amman, while there is no Jordanian embassy in the emirate.

Kuwait also froze ties with Yemen, Sudan and the Palestinians after accusing them of siding with Iraq after the invasion.

## ACI blasts Israel for failure to implement agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Monday blasted Israel both for failing to implement economic agreements it signed with Jordan as part of the 1994 peace treaty and for obstructing trade between the two countries.

ACI member Zaki Ayoubi told the opening session of a three-day meeting, summarising the impact of the peace process on the industrial sectors of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, that Jordan's economic agreement with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) has borne no fruit due to obstacles imposed by Israel.

The peace process between Israel and Arab countries aimed at ending decades of conflict and shaping a new phase of cooperation in the region, Dr. Ayoubi said.

He added that Jordan welcomes Israel as a partner in the establishment of peace and stability and in creating a new regional order but finds the Jewish state continually blocking the implementation of measures to ensure a comprehensive peace.

Dr. Ayoubi cited Israel's halting of Jordanian trade with Palestinian and Israeli markets as well as the escalation of tension in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, he described the co-sponsors of the peace process as having failed to exert pressure on Israel to honour its commitments.

According to Hazem Biblawi, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which group organised the meeting, participants aim to discern potential industrial relations in the region upon the achievement of peace.

He told the 60 experts gathered from Jordan, other Arab countries, and several organisations, that industries of particular interest are labour-intensive manufacturing plants such as textile, electronic and computer companies.

Participants will review 20 reports dealing with textiles, garments, electronics and computers in the region as well as the impact of the peace process on industry and the effect of open borders on marketing industrial products.

## Minister opens two-day health care conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi Monday opened a two-day seminar here to discuss methods of reducing mortality rates.

Entitled "Jordan's Health Status — findings from epidemiological studies and strategies for a future surveillance system," the meeting will explore the prevalence and causes of maternal and neonatal mortality, risk factors in one-time illnesses in the adult population and the various causes of death of a general population sample.

According to Dr. Kurdi, it is incumbent on Jordan to reduce mortality rates from chronic illnesses affecting adults as well as improve maternal and child care.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director Lewis Locke addressed the opening session stating that the agency is facilitating Jordan's benefitting from new trends in preventive medicine and primary health care.

He described cooperation in these areas as proceeding on a continual basis between the Ministry of Health and Medical Care and Johns Hopkins Medical Institute.

According to a recently-released USAID statement, the Ministry of Health and Medical Care, with assistance from USAID and in conjunction with the University Research Corporation Centre for Humanistic Studies, arranged that the Johns Hopkins Medical Institute provide technical supervision for four epidemiological studies in 1993.

The completed studies, according to the statement, should be viewed as interim efforts to better clarify major health problems in Jordan.

The present challenge is to realise maximum benefit from these studies and plan for a permanent information system, according to the statement.

The efficacy of any national health strategy depends upon the continuous flow of information about the extent of mortality and morbidity in the population, particularly in connection with preventable diseases, USAID maintained.

Conventional sources for securing such information include exact vital statistics, a registration system and periodic population-based health surveys, it added.

Jordan does not yet have an accurate system for securing information on mortality, the statement concluded.

## Ministry to conduct financial aid survey

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development will next month conduct a comprehensive survey covering the situation of those families in Jordan who have been receiving financial and other assistance from the National Aid Fund (NAF).

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser Monday stated that the national survey is to be conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and that it aims to discern the number of people in actual need of aid.

The survey is slated to first cover those who began receiving aid before 1990.

Over the next two weeks, the Ministry of Social Development will prepare new guidelines regarding NAF activities and regulations, according to Dr. Mamser.

These are concerned with financial aid reserved for senior citizens, widows, orphans, the disabled and those suffering from chronic disease, he added.

The aid also protects families whose main wage earners are in some way handicapped or otherwise incapable of performing their task, Dr. Mamser affirmed.

A seven-member family, whose combined monthly income totals JD 80 a month, should be offered an additional JD 60 a month in financial aid as such a large family requires a minimum of JD 140 to escape the absolute poverty line, he explained.

However, a family whose bread winner is elderly and unemployed and has children between 18 and 21 years of age will receive a loan to initiate a small business or be covered by the government-

sponsored social safety net programme, according to the minister.

The new regulations, he stated, emphasise the reduction of cash aid as much as is judged feasible, as well as encouraging the rehabilitation of family members that they be better prepared for gainful employment.

A small-scale study conducted on a five per cent sample of people who have been receiving financial aid between 1986 and 1990 demonstrated that only 21 per cent merit this continuous aid, 39 per cent are not in need of the aid and that the aid allotted to the remainder should be reduced.

As an example, he said, the study demonstrated that some of the families receiving cash aid, with children of 15 or 16 years seven or ten years ago, might not be currently eli-

gible for this aid.

The Ministry of Social Development has created five teams to visit social service institutions and examine activities and services therein as well as social workers employed and the nature of job they have been conducting, Dr. Mamser maintained.

A brief study undertaken by the ministry planning committee demonstrated that 70 per cent of these institutions are conducted in rented homes, lack sufficient funds, and do not fulfil a minimum level of labour requirements, he stated.

A further 80 per cent of those institutions responsible for children's welfare do not meet the required minimum level of eligibility to adequately execute their services, the minister concluded.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## FILM

\* "Fitzcarraldo" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe Institut, Jabal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

## PLAY

\* "Hospital of Happy Dreams" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

## SLIDE LECTURE

\* "Shedding Light on the Development of Calligraphy throughout the Ages: Recent Discoveries in the Area of Mafrag" by Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Hosani at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682).

## LECTURE

\* "Transparency and Accountability in Government" will be the topic of a lecture at the American Centre, June 24 at 4:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Namat Al Naser at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until June 30.

\* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

\* Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain, until June 30.

\* "One-of-a-Kind" artists' book exhibit at the American Centre, Abdoun, until June 25.

\* Works by Karim Rasim at the Orient Gallery, from June 24 — July 10.

\* "Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition" shows work of 60 Arab artists, until July 24 at Darat Al Rumay, Jabal Weibdeh.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Qatari minister visits Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari Minister of Islamic Affairs Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Merri Monday started a four-day official visit to the Kingdom. During his stay, he will hold talks with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi and meet with other officials. Mr. Merri was received at Amman International Airport by Dr. Abaddi.

## Thai official concludes talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Thai Minister and President of Thai Global Holding Company Kim Watna Monday concluded a five-day official visit during which he met with HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, with whom he reviewed investment possibilities in the Kingdom. Dr. Watna also met with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Agel Biltaji and the two reviewed areas considered amenable to investment. He also visited a number of tourist sites in Jordan.

## Minister receives Bulgarian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser Monday received a Bul-

garian delegation representing voluntary societies. Dr. Mamser briefed the Bulgarian delegation on the ministry's duties and activities which, he said, aim at developing human resources and alleviating suffering.

## Smuggling attempt thwarted

AMMAN (Petra) — The Badia and Border Police forces thwarted a smuggling attempt Monday at Tal Hassan. A total of 25,106 cartons of cigarettes were confiscated. The badia forces confirmed that two trucks loaded with the cigarettes attempted to cross the Jordanian desert. The drivers were chased by the authorities and apprehended. Police did not say how many persons were involved in the incident.

## Omani ambassador discusses media

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Director General Ihsan Ramzi Monday received Omani Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan Ben Humoud Al Busaeed and the two discussed scopes of cooperation in media-related fields. Mr. Ramzi expressed Jordan's readiness to provide Oman with skilled cadres.



## Pakistan, India agree to tackle all disputes, including Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan and India Monday set an eight-point agenda for future peace talks including for the first time the explosive dispute over Kashmir, officials here said.

Another summit between the prime ministers of the two countries who last met in May in the Maldives was also on the cards after the groundwork is completed.

"As soon as the time is ripe the prime ministers will meet," an official spokesman said after a joint statement released by Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider and his Pakistani counterpart Shamshad Ahmed at a news conference here.

The two foreign secretaries will now hold a third round of talks in September in New Delhi where they held a breakthrough meeting in March, marking an end to a three-year suspension of dialogue between the arch-rivals, the statement said.

"It was also agreed that both sides would take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other," the statement said.

With the objective of promoting a "friendly and harmonious relationship" between the subcontinent neighbours, the foreign secretaries agreed to address all outstanding issues of concern to both sides.

The principal disputes listed on the agenda of future talks include the 50-year-old Kashmir dispute which has triggered two of the three wars between Pakistan and India since 1947.

More than 20,000 people have died in Indian-administered Kashmir since 1989 after the launch of a Muslim separatist campaign. The territory is divided between India and Pakistan.

The Pakistani foreign secretary said the outcome of the talks was a "very positive step" towards realising the wishes of the Pakistani and Indian peoples for "peace and good neighbourly relations."

"We have successfully completed the first stage of the task entrusted to us by our two prime ministers," he added.

The official spokesman said both sides had also agreed to release detained fishermen by July 15 and swap civilians detained after crossing the borders illegally on a date to be fixed later.

The reported deployment of nuclear-capable medium-range Prithvi missiles along the Indian border, the intrusion of India's spy aircraft into Pakistani airspace and the killing

of a major in alleged Indian firing in Sialkot sector last month had clouded the atmosphere ahead of the talks.

The agreement came after four days of talks between Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries who had "wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue on all outstanding issues" in a "cordial and constructive atmosphere."

The two countries have agreed to set up a mechanism including working groups at appropriate levels to address all these issues in an "integrated manner," it said.

Peace and security, including confidence-building measures, topped the agenda followed by Jammu and Kashmir and the 13-year-old military confrontation on Siachen Glacier.

A controversial Indian Wuller barrage project on the River Jehlum, the demarcation of boundaries in the Sir Creek area along Rajasthan, terrorism and drug trafficking, economic and commercial cooperation and promoting friendly exchanges in various fields are also on the agenda.

The items on peace and security and Jammu and Kashmir will be dealt with at the level of foreign secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of work of all the working groups, the statement said.

However, no deadline has been set for the establishment of working groups to be made up of officials from the two sides, the Indian foreign secretary said in reply to a question.

Stressing that the two sides will meet in a "spirit of sincerity" and purposeful endeavour, he said: "It is our purpose that the dialogue leads to establishment of trust, friendship and cooperation."

Mr. Haider said "it is our belief that the average citizen in both countries desires peace and good relations," and his Pakistani counterpart reciprocated the comments.

Responding to a question, Mr. Haider said the Islamabad talks did not touch on the nuclear capabilities of the two countries.

Asked about the Indian position on U.N. resolutions calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir, Mr. Haider declined to comment, saying India's position did not need to be repeated.

"Let me reiterate that we have set up a process of dialogue to address concerns of both sides," he added.

"We have no illusions about the complexity of the work," the Pakistani secretary said. "It is important that both sides now take steps to create a conducive condition to make the process purposeful and result-oriented."

## Australian government wavers on convention to discuss republic

SYDNEY (AFP) — The Australian government was accused by the opposition Monday of trying to hijack a convention promised to debate whether or not Australia should become a republic.

Prime Minister John Howard during a visit to Britain at the weekend signalled that he may scrap the debate, triggering an angry response from opposition leader Kim Beazley.

Mr. Howard said the constitutional convention planned for December may be abandoned if the Australian Senate maintained its refusal to allow delegates to be selected through a voluntary postal ballot.

"It will be on the heads of others if we don't have one," he told reporters accompanying him on the visit.

Opposition leader Kim Beazley said Monday that the government was clearly not serious about the convention if it insisted on a voluntary vote.

"I think it's a very bad thing that this government should set as the criteria, as to whether or not this convention will proceed, the overthrowing of the tradi-

tion of the Australian secret ballot," Mr. Beazley told reporters.

The avowedly pro-monarchist Howard gave a commitment prior to his 1996 election win that he would convene a constitutional convention to discuss whether Australia should sever its two-century-old link to the British crown.

But his government has proposed appointing half the 152 convention delegates and electing the other half by voluntary postal vote — instead of by compulsory ballot which is the usual voting method in this country.

"If the government insists that the only way a convention is going to go ahead is by knocking over the Australian secret ballot, then it's a government that is clearly not serious about either the convention or its intention to put a Republican position to the Australian people," Mr. Beazley said.

The government warned it would reintroduce this week in a bid to force the Senate to change its vote after it rejected the proposal last week arguing any vote should be compulsory like

other elections.

Many Republicans see Mr. Howard's insistence on such a variation from standard practice as being part of his agenda all along because opposition to it would provide an excuse to abandon the convention and block any move to a republic.

He is reported here to have told Queen Elizabeth during a private meeting with her Friday that while debate continues on the issue, it is not regarded as a major issue here and there is no sign of a consensus emerging.

Cheryl Kernot, leader of the centrist Australian Democrats, whose support is vital to the government in the upper house, accused the government of trying to hijack the convention by insisting on voluntary voting.

"This is the only opportunity they're giving us to discuss the republic," she said, adding "people are not voting against a voluntary system lightly."

"It's just that we don't trust them, we don't trust them to go ahead and introduce it after this convention for all elections in this country."

## Vietnam's leaders to stand aside for younger blood

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's septuagenarian president and prime minister will step down later this year, making room for younger men to take the reforming Communist country into the next century.

Confirmation of the departure of President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, which had been rumoured for weeks, came Monday with the publication of the full list of candidates for election to the National Assembly next month.

Mr. Anh and Mr. Kiet were not in the nationwide line-up of 664 candidates, which means they lose their seats in the legislature and must step down when the new assembly convenes in September.

Under the constitution, both the president and prime minister must be members of the assembly.

No such rules apply to the secretary-general of the Communist Party, who rules collectively in a carefully balanced triumvirate with the president and prime minister.

However, the 80-year-old Party Chief Do Muoi was also omitted from the election list, a move analysts said indicated that he would not stay on much longer.

All three men had been expected to stand down at a party congress a year ago, when Mr. Muoi talked of the need for the country to be led by younger blood.

But last-minute manoeuvring behind the scenes meant that they were kept on.

However, 76-year-old Mr. Anh suffered a stroke a few months later, and although he has recovered sufficiently to make some brief appearances in public, political sources say the army general is not well enough to stay on.

Mr. Kiet, 74, whose reform instincts have long been a foil to Mr. Anh's conservatism, has indicated on several occasions that he is tired and ready to go.

Several leading members of the 18-strong politburo have been mooted as successors. But some are rumoured to be front-runners one week and others the

next, and there are no indications yet that a decision has been made on who will replace the three leaders.

Leadership changes, a taboo subject in the tightly controlled media until they are made, are notoriously drawn-out and complex affairs. Since the National Assembly must approve the president and prime minister, it is likely that an announcement of the new leaders will be delayed until September's assembly session.

The question of who takes the reins will be an important measure of how far Hanoi is prepared to widen the scope and quicken the pace of economic reform.

The decade-old drive for reform along market lines has brought far-reaching changes to society and the economy, which has grown by more than eight per cent a year since 1992.

However, analysts say there are signs that the reform process could be running into a period of drift.

## Afghan sides fight for alleged Taleban captives

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan opposition forces Sunday battled a militia that claims to hold up to 800 prisoners from Afghanistan's dominant Taleban movement, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service said.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said at least 10 fighters had been killed in heavy fighting, which took place mostly on the outskirts of the opposition-held town of Pul-i-Khumri.

Forces loyal to ousted government military Commander Ahmad Shah Masood also attacked Taleban positions in Kapisa province, northeast of Kabul, but were repulsed, AIP said.

A Taleban force fled from Pul-i-Khumri earlier this month and took refuge in Baghlan, 30 kilometres to the north, held by Bashir Baghlani, a commander of the Hezb-i-Islami militia.

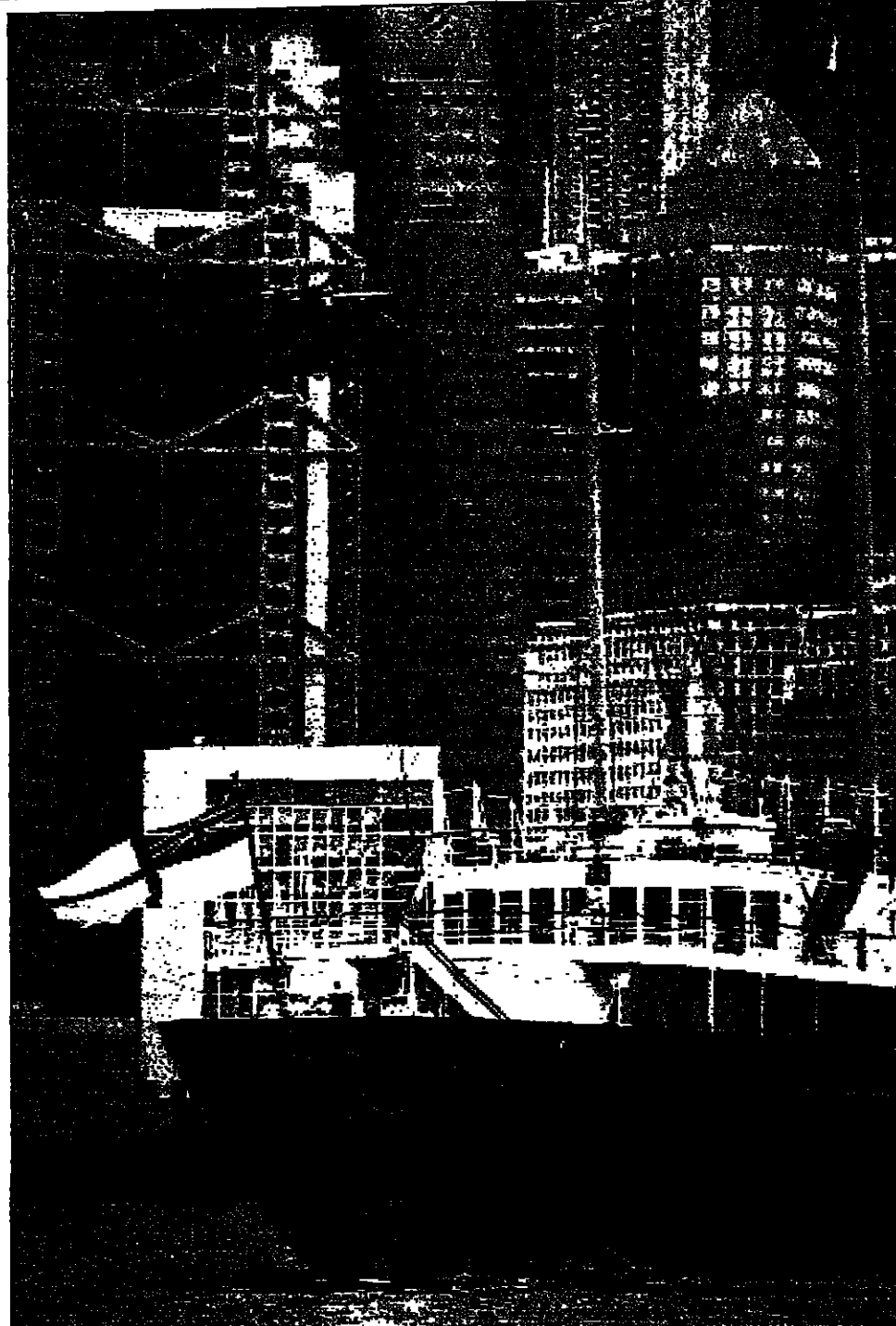
Hezb-i-Islami, a mainly ethnic Pashtun force like the Taleban, is officially opposed to the purist Islamic militia which controls the bulk of Afghanistan but has stayed out of a northern opposition alliance.

Anti-Taleban forces, including those of Mr. Masood, the Shiite Muslim Hezb-i-Wahdat militia and an Ismaili militia led by Syed Jafar Naderi, want Mr. Baghlani to hand over his Taleban prisoners.

The opposition alliance accuses Mr. Baghlani of supporting the Taleban. He has denied the charge, saying he is holding 700 to 800 Taleban prisoners, along with some of their junior leaders.

However, Taleban leaders have said Mr. Baghlani is cooperating with them. There has been no definite word on whether the Taleban who fled to Baghlan were made prisoner or not.

The Taleban, who captured the Afghan capital in September, are trying to impose purist Islamic rule throughout Afghanistan which has been devastated by almost 20 years of war.



A British forces helicopter flies above Britain's HMS Britannia as it steams into Hong Kong Monday. The British royal yacht arrived in Hong Kong, complete with a crew of 236 and a Royal Marine band, ahead of the historic June 30/July 1 Hong Kong handover when the British colony will revert to Chinese sovereignty after 156 years of colonial rule (Reuters photo)

## U.K. accepts PLA beef up before Hong Kong handover

HONG KONG (R) — Britain bowed to Chinese demands Monday to send 500 extra troops into Hong Kong just before British colonial rule ends next week.

London had at first staunchly resisted the move but yielded after protracted negotiations. The agreement defused one of the last major diplomatic rows before the June 30 handover.

"We are confident that there will be a smooth transfer of defence responsibilities between the two garrisons," a Hong Kong government spokesman said.

He offered no explanation for the climbdown but one diplomatic analyst close to the negotiations said: "This shows Britain has no cards left to play against China in Hong Kong. Britain had to face reality."

Hong Kong people had been wary of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops because of their role in crushing the Tiananmen democracy movement in 1989. The massacre drew a million protesters on to the streets of Hong Kong and gave birth to the territory's pro-democracy movement.

Almost 200 unarmed PLA troops have already arrived in Hong Kong for the handover. China, resisted by Britain, had wanted to bring in more before the transfer of power to ensure security for President Jiang Zemin at handover celebrations.

China's Xinhua News Agency announced from Beijing that Britain had agreed that 509 troops and 39 vehicles would now enter Hong Kong on the handover evening at 9.00 p.m. (1300 GMT).

China's representative on the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, Chen Zuo'er, told reporters the reinforcements would carry light weapons.

"The purpose of the agreement concluded by the two sides is to ensure that the PLA be able to perform its defence duties in Hong Kong from zero hour of July 1," Xinhua quoted a Chinese official as saying.

As the stock market waxed and British rule waned, the last colonial governor, Chris Patten, said the territory was like a Rolls-Royce limousine and China should not tinker with it.

Britain's HMS Britannia steamed into Hong Kong Monday for the handover.

The British royal yacht arrived in Hong Kong, complete with a crew of 236 and a Royal Marine band, ahead of the historic June 30/July 1 Hong Kong handover when the British colony will revert to Chinese sovereignty after 156 years of colonial rule.

The market, which made its biggest ever one-day gain Friday, jumped by more than one per cent to a new high of 15,322.33 before profit-takers wiped off the gains. It finally closed 133 points down at 15,021.

Democracy leader Martin Lee, attacked by Mr. Tung for "bad-mouthing" Hong Kong, kept up the pressure on China now that the eyes of the world are focused on the run-up to the handover.

He denounced the unelected Provisional Legislature set up by Beijing as a threat to Hong Kong's future.

Democracy activists also protested against the future government's plans to bring in retroactive laws after the territory reverts to Chinese law.

They chanted "criminal prosecution should not be retroactive" in front of the tower block where Mr. Tung has his office.

Meanwhile, the United States Monday called on China to implement fully all agreements guaranteeing Hong Kong's future autonomy, including the freedom of the press and the right to demonstrate.

U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong Richard Boucher said Washington would do "everything in our power" to preserve U.S. interests "so that Americans can go on contributing to, and sharing in, the prosperity and dynamism of this wonderful city."

He said there were several ways to achieve this, including maintaining the U.S. government and business presence here at present levels and continuing to speak out frankly on developments in Hong Kong after British rule ends here on July 1.

"Preserving Hong Kong's important economic role for China and Asia, preserving Hong Kong's status as a free port and international centre, and preserving Hong Kong's way of life, including open government and fundamental freedoms, go hand in hand," he told a business forum.

## Thousands mark anniversary of Okinawa battle

TOKYO (AFP) — Thousands of people joined a memorial ceremony in Okinawa Monday to mark the 52nd anniversary of the bloodiest battle on the southern Japanese island, which also victimised forced labourers from Korea.

Some 4,000 participants, including bereaved families, shared a silent prayer at noon Monday in the Peace Memorial Park in Itoyan, southern Okinawa, for the souls of more than 200,000 victims in the battle, organisers said.

The Okinawan government added the names of 595 victims to a stone monument in the park, including 43 Koreans who were taken by the Imperial Japanese authorities to the island as forced labourers.

The Okinawan government adds newly-found names of victims whenever it confirms they were actually killed in the battle.

The local government has not officially confirmed the total number of the victims because most documents, including resident registrations, have been missing since the war.

Historians say some 30,000 people were forced to work in Okinawa during World War II, but it is unknown how many of them were killed.

Okinawa was the only place in Japan where ground battles against the allied forces involved civilians, and many were encouraged to commit suicide rather than be captured by U.S. forces.

The additional names on the stone monument brought the total number of victims to 236,660.

"With courage and belief, we will continue fighting against any threats to peace," Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota told the ceremony.

"I would like Okinawa to become a keystone of the development of the Asia-Pacific region," the governor said.

"I wish Okinawa to become a place where our children can live safely and happily," a female participant, carrying her baby, said in an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

In his speech, Mr. Ota renewed his opposition to U.S. military facilities on the island, saying: "We cannot keep accepting them because their presence might hurt us in case of emergency."

Since control of Okinawa reverted from the United States to Japan in 1972, Okinawa has housed three-quarters of the U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Okinawa's simmering anger at U.S. bases spilled over in September 1995 when a 12-year-old schoolgirl was raped by three U.S. servicemen.

Tokyo and Washington agreed in 1996 to return about 20 per cent of the land occupied by U.S. troops on the island following months of rallies against the bases, but the two governments have said they had no plan to reduce the number of troops stationed in Japan or Okinawa.

Okinawa Development Agency chief Jitsuo Inagaki read out an address from Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who was in the United States to attend the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations and Russia.

The victims of the 1945 Battle of Okinawa are "always in my mind as I think of various problems facing Okinawa," Mr. Hashimoto said in the statement.

"By mourning for the victims today, I want to renew my determination to help building Okinawa with hope for the future," Mr. Hashimoto said.





Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh greets supporters as he arrives in Borset, 90 kilometres south of Phnom Penh Monday. Prince Ranariddh said there were people, and possibly some countries, who were afraid of what Khmer Rouge guerrilla chief Pol Pot might reveal in court. The prince insisted the hated leader was still alive and said those saying he was already dead had no interest in seeing him testify before a court (Reuters photo)

## Ferocious battles grip Sri Lanka as troops mount fresh offensive

COLOMBO (AFP) — Heavy fighting gripped northern Sri Lanka Monday as thousands of government soldiers backed by tanks and aircraft mounted a fresh advance into Tamil rebel-held territory, the Defence Ministry said.

Soldiers began moving northwards from two positions they had captured earlier from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ministry said in a statement.

"Satisfactory progress has been made so far and the terrorists are expected to resist the advancing troops," the statement said, adding that air force was providing close cover to ground troops.

The fresh military onslaught ended a 12-day lull in fighting in the northern region where the Tigers mounted a ferocious counter-attack leaving some 800 killed on both sides.

Soldiers began their march Monday from the northern town of Periyamadu and Nedunkerni but it was not immediately clear

how far they had moved.

The Tigers had earlier accused the military of pounding positions just north of the new army positions.

Security forces first mounted the current offensive on May 13 with the aim of opening a vital land route to the government-held northern peninsula of Jaffna through thick jungle terrain.

The Jaffna Peninsula was wrested from rebel control in December 1995 but the area continues to be supplied by air and sea because the only road to the area is controlled by the Tigers.

Since mounting the operation, code-named "Sure of Victory," the army has moved about 15 kilometres but have another 60 kilometres to go before they achieve their objective.

Official figures show that 260 soldiers were killed and nearly 600 wounded in the fighting since May 13 while rebel losses have been estimated by the military at 810 killed. The rebels say the figures are much lower.

The Tiger guerrillas are campaigning for indepen-

dence in the island's north and east. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the separatist conflict in the past 25 years.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has emphasised the need to neutralise Tamil Tiger rebels militarily before finding a political solution to the country's ethnic crisis, newspapers reported Monday.

The state-owned Daily News quoted Mrs. Kumaratunga as saying at a commissioning parade of new army officers at the weekend that the government had no choice but to crush the separatists militarily as a precursor to a political solution.

"Our enemy is an intransigent minority professing to be the sole representative of a section of our population. Through armed action it prevents the acceptance of a reasonable solution to the most serious problem faced by the nation," the newspaper quoted her as saying.

"We have little choice except fighting this rebel group militarily."

## N. Korean braves minefields to flee to South

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean soldier braved minefields and wire barriers Monday to flee his famine-threatened homeland and defect to South Korea.

A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said the soldier, identified only as Chung, a 22-year-old sergeant, crossed the four kilometres wide Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) bisecting the Korean peninsula.

The heavily guarded DMZ was created as a buffer zone between the rival states under the 1953 truce that ended the three-year Korean War. The DMZ is riddled with thousands of mines.

"Chung is a sergeant assigned near the border. He must have been familiar with the area. He passed through minefields and barbed wire before swimming across a river to our side," the spokesman told Reuters.

"Emerging from the Imjin River, he sought asylum at a guard post in the western sector of the frontier," he said.

The DMZ, sealed off from the public by barbed wire and closely patrolled by troops from both sides, is one of the world's tensest cold war frontiers.

The defector, who was wearing a blue athletic uniform and sports shoes, was being questioned by South Korean officials.

A growing number of North Koreans have defected to South Korea recently. International aid agencies have warned that the food crisis threatening the communist state could become critical this summer.

In February, a North Korean woman fled barefoot through the eastern sector of the DMZ, saying she wanted to escape poverty.

On Monday, a consignment of food aid left the southern port of Pusan for North Korea.

A Red Cross official said a South Korean vessel carrying 1,000 tonnes of flour and 100,000 boxes of instant noodles was due to arrive at the North Korean port of Hungnam Wednesday.

A South Korean tycoon and Christian groups donated the food in response to a Red Cross appeal to help the communist country avoid famine, the official said. The shipment is part of 50,000 tonnes of food the South Korean Red Cross has promised to deliver by the end of next month.

North Korea, hit by devastating floods in 1995 and 1996, has appealed for international food aid.

## Cambodian premier says some fear Pol Pot testimony

BORSET (R) — Cambodia's first prime minister said Monday that some people, and possibly some countries, were afraid of what captured Khmer Rouge guerrilla chief Pol Pot might reveal in court.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh insisted the hated guerrilla leader was still alive and said those saying he was already dead had no interest in seeing him testify before a court.

"It appears to me that some Cambodians, and maybe some countries, are not really willing for Pol Pot to be alive and be brought to justice," the prince told reporters.

Prince Ranariddh's co-premier and political rival Hun Sen said Sunday that he had received an unconfirmed report that Mr. Pol Pot was dead.

But several hours later the prince's top military adviser, Deputy Chief of General Staff Nhiek Bun Chhay, returned from northern Cambodia saying he had seen Mr. Pol Pot that morning and the breakaway Khmer Rouge faction detaining him would hand him over to authorities soon.

"There are some people who don't have interest in bringing Pol Pot to court," the prince said. "Pol Pot will say — those people are involved, those countries supported me for years."

Last week the two prime ministers sent a letter to the United Nations secretary general asking for the world body's assistance in bringing to justice those responsible for the crimes committed during the notorious 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime.

It was the first time in months that the two feuding premiers had acted in unison on the Khmer Rouge issue.

Prince Ranariddh, speaking to reporters at the opening of a school 90 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh, said he asked General Nhiek Bun Chhay to get a photograph of Mr. Pol Pot.

Gen. Nhiek Bun Chhay has been negotiating with the Khmer Rouge breakaway faction which rebelled against Mr. Pol Pot earlier this month.

"He should try to do his best to take photos of Mr. Pol Pot," the prince said.

Political analysts say few Cambodians will be sure whether the elusive Mr. Pol Pot is alive until they are provided with real proof.

Mr. Pol Pot fled his Anlong Veng headquarters earlier this month after ordering the execution of his defence chief and almost a dozen of his family members.

The Khmer Rouge faction which broke with him hunted him down and captured him last Thursday but Prince

Ranariddh did not say when he expected the faction to hand him over to the government.

The prince did not elaborate on which people or countries might be afraid of Mr. Pol Pot testifying in court but few political players in Cambodia, including the prince himself, have not, at one time or another, been allied with Mr. Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

China and Thailand were key supporters of the Khmer Rouge, royalist forces and another guerrilla army during their 1980s war against a Vietnamese army of occupation and the Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh.

Prince Ranariddh said he had no desire to meet the 69-year-old Pol Pot.

"I don't want to see that man. I don't want to shake hands with that man," he said.

Prince Ranariddh said the situation in Anlong Veng was stable and the breakaway Khmer Rouge were expected to declare that "they had cut themselves from the political and military structures of Pol Pot" later in the day.

More than a million Cambodians died of starvation, disease and hard labour, or were executed as enemies of the Khmer Rouge during Mr. Pol Pot's rule.

Meanwhile, Khmer Rouge guerrilla radio claimed Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had cancelled a planned visit to Cambodia at the end of the month because of security concerns.

A U.S. State Department spokesman has said Mrs. Albright was considering delaying or cancelling the stop in Cambodia, but for the moment it was still scheduled to go ahead.

In Monday's edition, the Times, quoting unnamed American and foreign officials, said Mrs. Albright asked Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy to request the extradition under Canada's law against genocide.

Only Canada and Denmark have such laws permitting them to make such a request, the Times said.

If Canada agrees, the United States is ready to coordinate sending a military team to Cambodia to remove Mr. Pol Pot, the Times said.

As part of a plan being worked out, Mr. Pol Pot would be extradited to Canada as a temporary measure until an international tribunal could be convened to try him under the International Genocide Convention.

## S. African Communists protest Hani killers' amnesty plea

BENONI (AFP) — Several hundred Communist Party supporters and unionists demonstrated Monday outside the heavily-policed venue where the two jailed killers of anti-apartheid leader Chris Hani were due to apply for amnesty.

The protesters, many clad in orange workers' overalls and carrying posters commemorating the murdered South African Communist Party (SACP) leader, danced and sang anti-apartheid

songs outside the city hall in Benoni, east of Johannesburg.

Two rightwingers imprisoned for the April 10, 1993 murder — Clive Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walusz — were due to appear in the city hall where South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission were to hear their requests for legal indemnity.

A court ruled that Mr. Walusz, a Polish immigrant, pulled the trigger on Hani in

the driveway outside the activist leader's Johannesburg home, and that Conservative politician Mr. Derby-Lewis helped plan the murder.

A third suspect, Mr. Derby-Lewis' wife, Gaye, was acquitted.

The assassination sparked a series of mass protests by supporters of Nelson Mandela's now-ruling African National Congress (ANC) and the Communist Party, and according to some ana-

lysts, nearly resulted in a race war in the months leading up to South Africa's historic 1994 democratic elections.

Hani's widow, Limpho, has opposed the killers' amnesty bid and was expected to ask that Monday's hearing be postponed to give her time to prepare her case. A lawyer for the rightwingers, meanwhile, has said he will oppose the request, according to Johannesburg's Daily Star newspaper.

## Clashes kill two, injure three in latest Albanian violence

TIRANA (AFP) — Clashes between rival gangs left two dead and three injured in the southern port of Vlore, Tirana's police chief said Monday with less than a week to go until parliamentary elections.

The incident took place late Sunday, Pashk Tusha added, bringing the total number reported slain in weekend violence to nine.

In addition, six police officers were wounded, two seriously as armed men ambushed a police patrol in the capital also Sunday.

The latest incidents follow a series of violent incidents

in the run up to June 29 elections.

Earlier Sunday, a magistrate and a policeman were shot dead in Lezha, in the north, after they refused to stop at a checkpoint set up by armed men, the Albanian News Agency (ATA) reported. One of the gunmen was also killed.

In addition, a man of 25 was killed by unidentified assailants in Lac, also in the north.

On Saturday, police said two people were killed by armed, hooded men in the central town of Elbasan, while one person died in as

yet unclear circumstances in the southern town of Kucova.

More than 1,600 people have met violent deaths in this impoverished Balkan nation since late February when the failure of get-rich-quick savings schemes sparked widespread anger that boiled over into armed rebellion.

Albanians are to vote in early parliamentary elections next Sunday. It is hoped they will usher in a broad-based parliament and new government which will begin to restore order.

They will also vote on whether to reinstate the monarchy.

## Decision is not likely at Earth Summit on forest convention

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — European Union (EU) countries are coming to the Earth Summit here this week to push for a convention to promote the sustainable management of forests all over the world.

But with the United States and a number of environmental organisations continuing to oppose a convention, a decision is not likely to be taken during the June 23-27 meeting.

At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the 108 heads of state and government avoided the contentious issue, and put their signatures to a "Declaration of Principles" on forests.

Five years later, the international community ap-

pears divided over the wisdom of negotiating a new environmental treaty when others such as the Rio Convention on Climate Change have not been implemented.

A U.N. panel on forests was set up in 1995, but has failed to reach consensus on the need for a convention.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, if wooded areas continue to be overexploited at the current rate, the majority of the world's forests will disappear in the next 50 years, speeding up the loss of wildlife species.

The EU favours a convention, as does Canada, Russia and some Southeast Asian countries including

Indonesia and Malaysia.

But the United States, where 70 per cent of forests are in private hands, and India, which fears depriving its poor of a precious resource, are opposed. Others opposed to a convention are Australia, Costa Rica and Venezuela.

Japan and Switzerland want more time before beginning negotiations, while Brazil "is not opposed" to a convention.

Non-governmental organisations are meanwhile split. Most are opposed, fearing that a convention could be influenced by governments and become a "loggers' charter" favourable to timber industries.

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## Jordan Times

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## Shelter vs ownership

FOR THE second time this year police clashed with residents of houses built on state land before the authorities were able to bulldoze their homes. On Sunday, at least 40 people, including policemen, were injured when police attempted to implement a court order to bulldoze 60 semi-constructed houses in Dirar, near Deir Alla in the central Jordan Valley. In April in eastern Amman, one man was killed and 35 houses were demolished in a similar incident.

The issue of people seizing state-owned land, building on it, or farming it has been with us for decades, with no solution in sight. Unfortunately the issue has been the subject of many rumours and much speculation. While the government, at least in the two cases above, has been, as it maintains, executing court orders, people accuse the authorities of giving state-owned land as gifts to influential people. The poor, who can barely afford building a four-wall room to shelter themselves and their children, cannot possibly afford to pay thousands of dinars for a plot of land. They see state-owned plots measuring tens or hundreds of dunums being acquired by powerful people and find no reason why they themselves cannot make use of that same land that the state inherited from the feudal Ottoman Empire.

Meanwhile, existing laws permit people to rent state land provided they cultivate it. A law drafted by the now-defunct Royal Commission for Reform and Development even proposed the sale of state land for purposes of housing.

Little information is available to the public or the press on state land and how much of it has been leased or granted and to whom. Although there have been many accusations of misappropriation of that land, no serious study of the matter seems to exist.

Yet the big question is: What does state land mean? Are the people not the component of the state and, therefore, the rightful owners, collectively, of that land? These and many other queries are legitimate and must be addressed and resolved. While the house structures in the central Jordan Valley were not lived in, those in eastern Amman were inhabited. Many more disputed areas are also populated. For decades His Majesty King Hussein has advocated that no dweller be evicted from his/her house. This doctrine is being preached by the authorities. This should not be the case. Ownership should not take precedence over people's right to shelter themselves.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SALEH QALLAB, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm, urged the concerned authorities in Jordan to learn a lesson from Algeria where the unemployed young men have been involved in numerous acts of violence because of frustration and poverty. He said that in the summer, when schools, community colleges and universities close, thousands of young men and women find no work or a place to go and spend their leisure time. The phenomenon of idle young men gathering in cafés, streets and other places is making itself more and more felt in Jordan, and the free time could motivate them to commit any act, most probably a violent act, in addition to actions that could hurt the society and ruin their future. The writer noted that violence in Algeria was mainly blamed on young men aged between 17 and 23 who form 75 per cent of the population and who were ignored by successive Algerian governments until the explosion occurred. He said these frustrated, unemployed young Algerian men who bear a grudge against society for their present situation and who have been accused of being behind most of the violence should sound the alarm for the Jordanian society and authorities. The writer warned against disregarding this serious situation and said steps to address the question of unemployed should start immediately.

A WRITER for the Weekly Al Bilad said Monday that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has succeeded in mending Jordan's fences with the Gulf states and it is hoped he would follow this step by cementing Amman's ties with Damascus. Nayef Tawarah recalled that the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti drew Jordan away from Syria and ruined Jordan's ties with Iraq, but with his quiet diplomacy, Dr. Majali can exert special efforts to restore the good relations with Baghdad and Damascus which, he said, constitute Jordan's strategic depth. Syria has been at odds with Jordan over the approach towards the peace process, because it believes that Israel is bent on seeking its own selfish interests and is not concerned with reaching a comprehensive peace, unlike Jordan which believes that now is a good time to achieve peace because it can restore to the Arabs their usurped lands, noted the writer. The two sides, he added, can forget about their own different approaches to the peace process and join hands to face common challenges. The writer urged the prime minister to visit Damascus and explain Jordan's position with a view to winning its support for Amman's endeavours. He said now, that Dr. Majali has succeeded in winning the Gulf countries' solidarity with Jordan, he is in a position to approach Syria to secure its backing and remove the lingering differences that still mar bilateral relations.

## The View from Fourth Circle

## Softness and loudness in Turkey's and NATO's latest military coup

By Rami G. Khouri

HERE IS a fine little dilemma for our friends and allies in NATO: What happens when the military in a NATO member state stages a soft coup, ousts a democratically elected government and dictates future political configurations to the civilian political establishment? This is basically what seems to have happened this month in Turkey, that great, ancient civilisation and state that is also one of the enduring enigmas of modern political history. Having just experienced its fourth major direct military intervention in government this century, Turkey is a spectacular arena in which ancient and modern concepts of democracy, secularism, national identity and religiosity spar with one another and seek to find a modus vivendi that strikes a reasonable balance amongst them all.

The facts are clear and uncontested. The nearly one-year-old (and quite odd) coalition government led by the Islamist head of the Welfare Party, Necmettin Erbakan, and including the True Path Party of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, has been subjected to sustained and strong pressure by the Turkish military for about six months. First, the military-dominated National Security Council in February laid down an ultimatum, demanding that the government implement measures to blunt the spread of Islamist institutions in Turkey, such as in schools, clubs and the armed forces. Last month, the state prosecutor filed a case in the state constitutional court to outlaw the "subversive" Welfare Party, because it is a religious party in a secular state.

In June, the military started giving briefings to journalists, judges, academics and others, accusing the Welfare Party and other Islamists of spreading dangerous fundamentalist sentiments and posing "a fundamentalist threat to overturn the Turkish republic and introduce political Islam." The military has recently portrayed indigenous Turkish Islamism as an equal or even greater threat than the Turkish-Kurdish terrorism and separatism that the military has been fighting for years, with mutual mixed success and considerable violence, in the southeastern provinces. Major-General Fevzi Turkeri, chief of counter-intelligence at the general staff, recently stated in a briefing that "radical Islamic activities have gained momentum towards a civil uprising... political Islam works closely with Iran and some other Islamic countries to pull Turkey into an endless darkness... away from Western civilisation."

The military also worked the political system to break up the Erbakan-led coalition by successfully nudging some members of Mrs. Ciller's True Path Party to resign as ministers and from her party. This took away the coalition government's majority in parliament and also weakened the chances of the coalition being reestablished with Mrs. Ciller as prime minister.

Consequently, Prime Minister Erbakan finally resigned last weekend, and President Demirel has asked the leader of the centre-right Motherland Party, Mesut Yilmaz, to try and form a government (since his party had the second highest number of seats in parliament at the last election). Mr. Erbakan, responding to criticism of his Islamist movement as subversive, dangerous and medievally retrogressive, has called his opponents "secular fascists".

A review of the policies and actions of the Erbakan government — as opposed to its pre-incumbency Islamist campaign rhetoric — suggests that the Welfare Party has engaged in rather modest policy changes that are often more symbolic than substantive; these changes often primarily seek to promote an expression of Islamic identity among many in a citizenry that seem to be calling for this — though only about 21 per cent of voters cast their ballots for the Welfare Party in the 1995 election. The accusation of the revolutionary, dangerous and subversive nature of the Turkish Islamists is intriguing, but not well documented or proven. The military needs not only to prove more emphatically why the Islamists are such an alleged threat (which the Turkish people and others in the region would applaud, if such proof were both plentiful and credible) but it should also provide more convincing arguments for the manner in which it has engineered this latest coup — a rather soft coup in terms of the military's entry into governance in Turkey in 1960, 1971 and 1980, but a rather loud coup for a NATO member state that prides itself with its democratic secularism.

Turkey is important to watch because — like the two other big, old, formidable nationalisms in this region, in Egypt and Iran — it represents history's ongoing deliberation and uncompleted verdict on the transition from the ancient to the modern and from the Oriental to the Western (or, at least, to the European). Even more than Egypt and Iran, Turkey, since the mid-1920s, has represented a bold and audacious attempt at national and social engineering that has sought to promote — or even manufacture — a European state and values on very fertile Anatolian soil. This might be a flight of romantic fantasy implemented with old fashioned authoritarianism camouflaged as democratic secularism, or it might prove to be one of history's most enlightened, successful transitions to mass modernity, socio-economic progress and national well-being. The changes are still under way. The only reasonable position that outsiders can take on this matter is to wish the Turkish people well in their endeavours, and to hope that their national configuration, identity, values and fate would reasonably and accurately reflect the national consensus of the Turkish people.

The Turkish situation is perpetually fascinating and important because it may tell us much about the prospects

for stable, responsive, democratic and accountable governance in these Oriental lands of ours where the anchorage of traditional collective social and religious identities is seriously challenged by the dictates of global, individualistically-oriented free market economies.

That the Turkish military has forced a change of government in Turkey is neither novel nor surprising; but it is particularly significant for the very blunt, public and sustained manner in which this was done. With nearly a million people, considerable national prestige, and the biggest single slice of the state's budget, the Turkish military had already demonstrated the political will to operate virtually independently of the elected civilian government when deemed appropriate (for example, in the Turkish military's operations in northern Iraq or in its closer ties with Israel). Now, the military has seen it fit not only to openly dictate a combination of social and political values, but also single-handedly to define the nature of the democratic secularism that has characterised modern, Atatürkist Turkey, and that it feels obliged to uphold.

The dilemma here is at once obvious, profound and historic, but also multi-faceted: What does it mean to be a secular state? When the rule of law and the perceptions of generals clash, who decides the outcome? When secular democratic mechanisms lead to an expression of rising religious identity among the citizenry, does secularism or democracy emerge as a more important value to preserve? Who determines the political will or the consensus of the Turkish people on these issues? Is the military subject to the deliberations of a secular democratic political system, or above the system's democratically operational decisions?

If the Turkish military has intervened in order to impose a political value system reflecting its own definition and self-image of what Atatürk and his generals had in mind in 1923, and to suppress rising expressions of Islamist culture as manifested in a democratically elected government, then the current situation in Turkey is likely to lead to greater instability and tension. If, on the other hand, the military has intervened in order to guarantee those vital open spaces in a secular democracy where all views can be expressed and a national consensus can emerge, then the military may have acted with enlightened decisiveness.

What we are witnessing in Turkey may or may not prove to be a noble preservation of democratic secularism; but it is certainly part of the modern historical process by which some ancient Middle Eastern societies are trying to define what democratic secularism means in their contexts, whether it is appropriate and efficacious for them, and how it relates to deeper, underlying identities based on religion, nationalism and ethnicity.

## Kohl keen on common European currency

By Gwynne Dyer

"The fox knows many things; the hedgehog knows one big thing."  
— Sir Isaiah Berlin, 1953

MANY OF his European Union (EU) colleagues secretly think that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is a peasant. He speaks no language but German, his tastes are unsophisticated and he is no intellectual. Worse, he goes on and on about the same tedious subject when they have twenty other urgent matters to discuss.

The officials are still clearing up the mess after the chaotic summit of the fifteen European Union heads of government in Amsterdam last week. It ended in the wee hours of June 18 with hastily scribbled deals and compromises that now have to be turned into legal language (in a dozen different languages) — but it is already clear that the Treaty of Amsterdam will not do what it was supposed to do.

The failure to sort out issues like who gets a veto, and over which EU policies, and how many European Commissioners each country gets, would normally matter little. But up to ten Eastern European countries

are waiting impatiently to join the EU, and it will be paralysed if it lets them in before reforming those rules.

In practice, they cannot join until the EU mounts another maximum effort at reform — and gets it right. Given everything else on the European agenda, we may be talking about a three or four-year delay. That means that Kohl will become even more persistent and tedious about his pet project, Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). But he does have his reasons.

EMU means literally the move to a single European currency, the "euro," which will replace the pounds, francs, marks, liras and escudos that have served the individual member countries for up to a millennium (1,250 years, in Britain's case.) This is portrayed as a move towards economic efficiency and competitiveness, but of course it is nothing of the sort. It is an intensely political project, and it is almost entirely Helmut Kohl's baby.

The thing that distinguishes Helmut Kohl from the Tony Blairs, Lionel Jospins, Jose Maria Aznars and Wim de Koks who run the rest of the EU — all intelligent, serious, industrious men

who worry about the economy and unemployment and immigration policy and the rest — is that he remembers the war.

Really remembers it: Kohl was just too young to be dragged into one of the battalions of teenagers conscripted for the last-ditch defence of Germany's wrecked cities in 1945, but he grew up amidst the ruins. Then he spent most of his adult life in a divided Germany with six foreign armies and thousands of short-range nuclear weapons on its soil. So he can be forgiven for suspecting that history has not stopped.

Helmut Kohl is the last "European", the last member of the generation who believed that Europe must unite or go back into hell, to hold power in a major European country. His colleagues all think they are "Europeans" too, but they really do not believe it could ever go that wrong. Kohl does, and that makes him different.

He lived most of his life in a Europe that stood on the brink of a third world war and oblivion, so it was not until 1990, when Germany was united, that he began to think about how to secure the longer-term future. In 1993, he came up with the

idea of a single European currency.

There are a hundred practical downsides to a single Europe-wide currency, but there is one shining upside. If the EU ever buys the Trojan horse that Kohl has built for it, then it will have to develop a real federal political system to run it. You can do a great many things by consensus, with vetoes all round, but running a common currency is definitely not one of them.

Kohl may not realise it, but the need to run a common currency was one of the key things that turned the fractious Thirteen Colonies into the federal United States in the decades after the American Revolution. He certainly does know about the "Zollverein", the customs union among the many German kingdoms, principalities and free cities that paved the way for a united Germany. And he knows exactly what the "euro" would do to Europe.

After the failure in Amsterdam last week, with Eastern Europe effectively locked out of the EU until past the end of the century, Kohl will bear down even harder on the EMU project. He is willing to sacrifice everything for it, and he may well end up doing so.

his political position in Germany is crumbling under the assaults of those who mistrust the "euro", but he keeps right on going.

Is he right? Is the shiny new techno-Europe doomed to slide back into its vicious, self-destructive past if it does not unite? (And it will not unite, at this late date, without the "euro").

Nobody knows. But if history has not stopped, then there is a powerful case to answer. Europe's future looked pretty secure in 1890, too, but 1914 was only a quarter-century away.

Most people do not think on these time-scales. Kohl does. He may think slowly (or so his critics say), but he thinks long thoughts. The "euro" is scheduled to debut in eighteen months' time, but if it does not make that deadline, it probably will never happen. Whether it does or not gets settled next month.

With the integration of

Eastern Europe into the EU, now postponed beyond the edge of vision, Kohl has only one hope left: that he can somehow get the "euro" — any "euro," however compromised and mutilated — past the guardians of fiscal probity and national sovereignty. The point is to get the Trojan horse through the gates.

His opponents are honourable people, intelligent people, serious people. But philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin's distinction between foxes and hedgehogs remains relevant.

In full, what he said was: "There exists a great chasm between those, on one side, who relate everything to a single central vision... and on the other side, those who pursue many ends, often unrelated and even contradictory. The first kind (are) the hedgehogs, the second (are) the foxes." Helmut Kohl is a hedgehog.

## LETTERS

## 'Shifting' mentalities

To the Editor:

I AGREE with Natasha Twal's letter "Equal opportunity" (Jordan Times, June 19, 1997) regarding hiring students for part-time jobs; I believe it is a great thing as it gives us a chance to become less dependent on our parents and more dependent on ourselves.

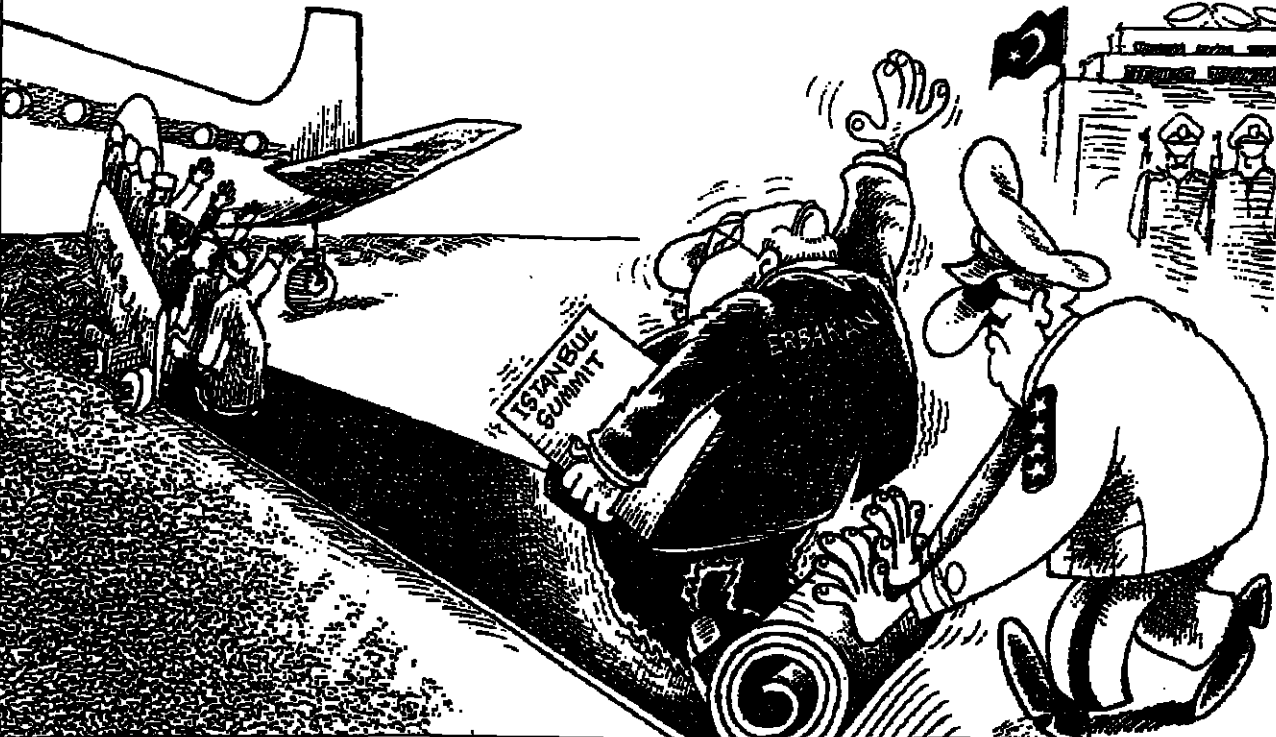
But the experience I had is somehow similar to Natasha's. I had heard that they were hiring students as part-timers, so I went to a place where they wanted workers. I was very enthusiastic when I knew that they would hire me (I am a high school student, and with no prior expertise). I really thought that was too good to be true, and I was right. When we came to discuss my shift, the manager gave me a very late night shift. I am a sixteen-year-old girl who could never work in such conditions.

I was so discouraged, that I did not look for another job. A positive point, though, is the fact that I did not feel he did not hire me because of my gender; they had young men working in the day shifts.

We call for equality, but I do not think we are getting there. It is very difficult to change the way a society has been operating for decades, or to change the mentality of the many opposed to gender equality. If we seek a country fit for the 21st century, equality should be sought in the right way, and achieved.

Jomana W. Karadsheh,  
Amman.

M. KAHL





## The spirit of leadership and globalisation could defuse the potential for a clash of civilisations

By Dr. Patrick Mendis

THE CLASH of civilisation is the greatest foreign policy challenge in the 21st century for many countries and their leaders. This hypothesis put forward by Harvard University Professor Samuel Huntington is a misnomer. The liberalised and rapidly globalising economies around the world where traditional cultures are imbedded in their historical make-up seem to present a different story. The growing thirst for democratic governance from the bottom-up and the uncharted information revolution that cut across every racial, ethnic, religious and other socio-economic and political boundary would not lead us to a destiny of clashes, but to a new era of unprecedented possibilities.

Even though the clash of civilisation hypothesis alerts a potential danger which could be driven by human frailties, cultural realities and perennial hatreds among ethnic and religious groups, there still exists a hope for a better world. That optimism must come from creative leadership and acquired attitude.

Jordan is a classic example. With its fascinating history with a political drama of power and colonialism, Jordan's leaders have a special privilege and blessing to offer a set of gifts to make this world and the Middle East region a better place to live. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor illustrate a very important point in practice where Professor Huntington seemed to have gone wrong. Jordan's leaders maintain their culture and traditions in a most democratic manner possible in the Arab World while adopting science and technology for the betterment of their own citizens.

My observations convinced me to believe that traditions and modernity coexist side-by-side peacefully with a religious, ethnic, racial, economic and social diversity, despite economic globalisation forces in Jordan (when we eat Chinese food, we do not become Chinese).

Many thanks to Their Majesties and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and their family members; I had the privilege to listen, learn and reflect on their genuine dedication for world peace and economic progress not only in Jordan but also in the Middle East region.

My participation in the first International Leadership Programme in Amman under the auspices of the Tokyo-based United Nations University (UNU) has given me an opportunity to interact with Jordanian leaders and other associated nationalities who participate in the International Leadership Academy (ILA). The visionary Prime Minister Majali, whose pregnant idea of having a global institution to educate current and future leaders under UNU-ILA some 15 years ago, has brought 165 relatively "young" leaders from 65 countries for this entire month in the Middle East. Our ability to enjoy the freedom of Jordanian democracy and its culture, and to experience the hospitality, friendship and kindness of the Jordanian people have truly transformed our perceptions of the Arab World and their aspirations for peaceful coexistence.

Not only did I have the opportunity to study, work and develop friendship with people of Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist faiths over the years in Sri Lanka and the United States, my experiential learning and working with leadership colleagues and friends here in the academy have also taught me that it is not the civilisations that clash, but people and their personalities — and above all, their attitudes. We may use the religious, cultural and other attributed characters in and among us to substantiate our individual differences and the sense of our identity. Which eventually

leads us to conclude that it is our "attitudes" or "worldviews", the undercurrents of our being and our relationships with others, which may clash, but not the generalised notion of civilisations as Professor Huntington puts it.

The attitudes, which emanate from our backgrounds and interactions between people and their environments, are the ones that need to be developed for our own use of exercising leadership for the common goods. Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, in his address to the audience of ILA Fellows, remarked of his journey from a military leader to a world statesman: "In a war, one compromises with others; in peace time, one negotiates (inner-dialogue) with oneself." The underlying nature of this spiritual transformation derives from a development of an attitude where one's heart and mind fully collaborate with each other for a higher plane of human consciousness.

It is a process of knowing oneself that could elevate a "leader" to a "leadership". Here, leadership is more than that; it is a collective consciousness of people, as demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa and many other leaders.

Former U.S. ambassador to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the current president of the World Academy of Art and Science, Professor Harlan Cleveland, in a series of workshops and Leadership Fellows highlighted the importance of attitudes, not skills, to be a leader in the information, global society where nobody is in charge. Ambassador Cleveland's themes, which range from information revolution to leadership attitudes, have been emphasised by numerous other distinguished speakers. The philosopher and futuristic Crown Prince Hassan has

articulated his remarkable wisdom from the information revolution and the development of new attitudes for global leadership which I share and highly value with esteem.

Similarly, HRH Princess Aysa Bint Al Hussein so eloquently and elegantly shared with us her military leadership and changing attitudes among military men and women in Jordan. According to Ambassador Cleveland, an aspiring political leader, military general, corporate executive, educational administrator, foundation officer, diplomat, or just a global citizen with an open mind in a fast-changing, information-driven society must understand and acquire the following eight attitudes:

1. A lively intellectual curiosity, an interest in everything — because everything really is related to everything else.
  2. A genuine interest in what other people think, what makes them tick — which means you have to be at peace with yourself for a start.
  3. An attitude that risks are there not to be avoided but to be taken.
  4. The feeling that crises are normal, tensions can be promising and complexity is fun.
  5. The realisation that paranoia and self-pity are reserved for people who do not want to be leaders.
  6. A capacity to imagine alternative futures.
  7. A sense of personal responsibility for the general outcome of your efforts.
  8. The quality of unwavering optimism; the confidence that there must be some more upbeat outcome that would result from adding up all the available expert advice.
- In a series of leadership and peace negotiation examples, Jan Egeland, Norway's secretary of foreign affairs who secretly brought Israeli and Palestinian leaders together, a meeting that eventually led to the Oslo accord, shared with us the importance of attitudes — as confidence-

building measures. The attitude was paramount in that leadership and peacemaking process for the commonweal of Palestinians and Jews for their coexistence; for Mr. Peres, it is the attitude what counts: "If you don't like peace, learn to live with the consequences of lack of peace," he remarked.

The birth of the ILA, which came about from an idea of Prime Minister Majali, has in fact been conceived and nurtured in a cocoon of attitude that required alternative solutions to global and regional challenges in the Middle East. The idea thus translated into a pilot project is noteworthy. The academy's operation has, however, shown several shortcomings, but bringing leaders together is an achievement.

The process of learning, teaching and reflection in a more democratic manner could have been exemplified in deeds rather than words by its director. The group of current and future leaders of the Leadership Academy is a remarkable pool of talents, energy and enormous potential for greater things in their organisations and communities. Their interactions and behaviours have taught me valuable lessons. What is more remarkable is that I have learnt more about leadership from negative examples of leading by our so-called self-appointed proud leaders.

The Leadership Academy in Jordan is unique and has great potential for not only developing and nurturing current and future leaders but also for better informing and understanding the Arab World and its relations with Israel. The mutual collaboration with Jordan's neighbours Israel, Palestine and Egypt, through study visits to the places of historical and political significance is the highlight of this programme for me. One may learn to appreciate and genuinely understand the challenges of the ordinary lives of people in this turbulent region of

## Randa Habib's corner

### 'Private' calls on privatised lines

I NEVER thought I would say it, but I wish that the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation never went privatised. Although one hails privatisation as a move expected to improve the quality and efficiency of the services provided, in this particular case, and since the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) took over in January, the situation has gone from worse to worst, close to a nightmare, instead of improving.

How many citizens had their phones cut last Saturday? In case you are one of them, and you checked with the esteemed JTC, you must have learned that the measure was taken because of "an unpaid bill in February".

Checking your papers, and must have, luckily, found all the receipts for January, February, March and April. It happened to me, so I went to the JTC and proudly showed the receipts to the employee in charge. He told you: "My computer shows that you have a bill of JD 61.178 for the month of February that was not settled." I showed him again the receipt of JD 210.379, that I had paid for that month, and told him that I failed to understand how I could still have that extra charge of JD 61.178, when, in any case, I never received such a bill.

The employee answered: "Because those bills were never sent." You try to control yourself and tell him with all the calm you can muster: "Then, how can I be blamed for not paying a bill that has never been sent, specially when I received another settled bill?"

"If you have doubts about this bill, you can file a complaint, and we will carry an investigation, but this can take several days, and your phone will remain cut in the meantime," the employee would tell.

So because you badly need your phone, you decide to "donate" the JD 61.178 to the JTC in order to have your line back and realise that you will never be able to unveil this mystery.

But this is not all. One word of advice: if you received the phone bill for the month of May, do not pay it! JTC has discovered "grave mistakes" in those bills and has decided to withdraw them.

As for the quality of the lines, this is altogether another story. Talking on the phone is becoming more like attending a conference as there are so often at least two other people on the line.

Having seen the first results of privatisation, I can only say long live the government. But then again, I doubt it.

## Clairvoyants take a peek at secretive Swiss banks

GENEVA (R) — Ever wondered how to catch sight of the secret, numbered Swiss bank accounts of fallen dictators like Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko or the Philippines' Ferdinand Marcos?

Forget conventional means, for the vaults of secretive Swiss banks are out of reach of prying eyes.

But another Swiss growth industry provided some other-worldly answers — at an international exhibition of mediums and clairvoyants last month in Geneva, home to the nation's richest private banks and more than 500 soothsayers.

Clairvoyants said they could lay open the bank vaults and take a peek, albeit with the help of cards, pendulums, tarots and sometimes even just by gazing deeply into the client's eyes.

At times, it seemed only those endowed with supernatural powers could hope to unravel the labyrinths of the Swiss banks.

"I see money in the direction of Lausanne. I see a bank facing Lake Geneva. Inside, I see red carpets and worried bankers," intoned Arlene, asked about the whereabouts of Mobutu's millions.

"I see bank vaults. There are big sums of cash. But I also see jewellery, gold and title deeds," said the French medium.

Fixing her piercing blue eyes into the horizon, she added: "I see a plane on a tarmac. I see people coming here to take the money out. There is a woman involved. A Zairian woman."

Switzerland has blocked Mobutu's assets in response to a demand from a prosecutor in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as Zaire is now called.

Swiss media estimate Mobutu may have squirreled away in Swiss banks up to \$4 billion looted from his mineral-rich African country, but banking authorities will not confirm this.

Letting her pendulum circle over the zodiac signs on her desk, Arlene offered the assurance: "The money is here. If people ask me, I can locate it with the help of cosmic energy."

Much has been said about the life and times of the deposed Zairian dictator, but little as alarming as that revealed through the mystical powers of the tarot cards of Madame Marina on the relationship between Mobutu and Swiss banks.

The first two tarot cards pulled by this correspondent for Mobutu's lot in life were money and war.

But the third, slapped down triumphantly by Madame Marina, put Mobutu well and truly beyond the pale: the image of the devil.

Madame Marina, a wry and sprightly 80-year-old Polish refugee, had more shocks in store. The tarot cards for the Swiss banks likewise had disturbing revelations.

After two cards denoting power and wealth, she turned over the image of the victim, the man hanging from a tree.

Could it be that Swiss banks will get their fingers burnt in another legal wrangle as Mobutu struggles to keep his hands on his assets, like the court battles raging over Marcos's millions?

"Money will not bring happiness to Swiss banks,"

French medium Julien gazed deeply into the wallpaper as if for inspiration, past the Swiss couples looking anxiously across the formica table tops at each other, sipping soft drinks and waiting their turn.

"Money will not bring happiness to Swiss banks," he said.

The issue of Mobutu's fortunes comes at a time when Switzerland is trying to repair an image tarnished by its dealings with Nazi Germany and Jewish claims that its banks are sitting on the dormant assets of Jews killed by Hitler.

Madame Marina, whose first husband, a Polish Jew, died in World War II, said her husband's Jewish family had deposited money in Swiss banks during the war.

She said her pendulum has always showed her husband's family had money in Swiss banks but admitted even her mystical powers were not strong enough against the material power of money.

"Numbers have big powers. Just think how many trillions you can make just by using the numbers zero to nine. This creates a special power for people who deal with money," she said.

## Eran plays down Sharon's expected effect on relations

(Continued from page 1)

He said some difficulties arise when, for example, Jordanian firms seek to conduct business with Israeli counterparts, but want to follow traditional patterns of doing business which are particular to the Arab World.

Mr. Eran called upon Jordanian businessmen to make use of peace between both countries and start joint ventures with their Israeli counterparts.

"Israel is an economy of \$100 billion GNP and it opens up tremendous opportunities for Jordanian companies... I suggest that Israel also provides a tremendous market for Jordanian products," he said.

The ambassador said Jordan and Israel have decided to construct a new bridge near the King Hussein Bridge to facilitate the flow of Jordanian-made goods to Israel and overcome problems facing the movement of goods to the self-rule areas.

"We are going to add a bridge which would facilitate the movement of trucks, because right now, there is only one old bridge handling all traffic of passengers and commodities," he said.

"With the addition of the new bridge, we will

increase the potential movement (of goods). Therefore I anticipate that there will be an increase in the quantity of cement moving from Jordan to the PNA," Mr. Eran said.

He said the new bridge will be constructed as soon as the technical issues are arranged adding that construction might start in a few months. He also said that the new bridge is a "temporary one."

"There are still difficulties, I admit, but since we are dealing with a new situation, I hope that within the next few weeks and months we will see the easing up of the movement of trucks," said the ambassador.

"What is needed is coordination between Jordan, Israel and the PNA on all issues relating to trade because we are intertwined in terms of trade and our economic relations. We need to discuss this in a comprehensive way," he said.

The diplomat said very significant progress was made in negotiations over the joint use of the Aqaba-Eilat airport by tourists from third countries.

"I think that it is a matter of weeks before we will see the beginning of the pilot project. There will be a trial period to see how we operate these flights together,"

he said.

He added that Jordan and Israel are making progress in discussions over the development of the Jordan Rift Valley (JRV), a very important area for both countries with a large potential for development on both sides.

"We are discussing this with the U.S. and there has been a very extensive report prepared by an American firm, ARZA," Mr. Eran said.

"There are several meetings between Israeli and Jordanian ministers scheduled for next week. They will cover areas of economic cooperation. We hope to develop among them the issue of trade, to discuss not only JRV matters but other areas of economic cooperation," he said.

Mr. Eran said his government has started an inquiry into complaints made by Jordan's ambassador to Israel, Omar Rabin, that Jordanian diplomats are mistreated by Israeli security at the borders with Jordan.

"There were a number of complaints by the ambassador, my counterpart in Tel Aviv. We have asked for full details and we are going to deal very seriously with these complaints and investigate the reasons," he said.

## Israel's Netanyahu grapples...

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday. Ex-general Ariel Sharon was front-runner for the senior job of finance minister vacated by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party rival Dan Meridor last week in a power struggle over the economy.

Two of Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet ministers have quit. Two other ministers boycotted a cabinet meeting Friday.

There's discussion in the ranks: Mr. Netanyahu's judgments has come into question on issues ranging from Jewish settlement expansion which has plunged Middle East peacekeeping into crisis to a political appointment which nearly got him indicted earlier this year.

Israel's political analysts cite Mr. Netanyahu's inexperience and massive ambition as possible explanations. "The only solution is early elections," insisted David Magen, a member of parliament from the Likud-aligned Geshet faction who quit as Mr. Netanyahu's deputy finance minister. "We'll continue our discussion and adopt a stance."

Foreign Minister David Levy, head of Geshet, told Israel radio. The biggest threat to Mr. Netanyahu's government appeared to come from a Party of Russian Immigrants led by industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky which demands say over the next ambassador to Moscow and aid for constituents.

"As long as we don't get real answers, we won't be able to vote for the prime minister," said Roman Bronfman, leader of Mr. Sharansky's seven-member Yisrael Ba-Aliya faction in parliament.

## Arafat says woman suicide bomber detained

(Continued from page 1)

stupid things", there was no alternative to his leadership.

Yediot Ahronoth published excerpts of what it described as a top secret memo. Israel's ambassador to the United States, Eliyahu Ben Elissar, sent his bosses in Jerusalem after meeting Secretary Albright two weeks ago.

It quotes Ms. Albright as saying at the meeting:

"I'm the last person to defend Arafat. He has recently done several stupid things which should not be done. But what's the alternative? The alternative could be more extreme."

The foreign minister said it was checking the report.

## Israel's envoy to U.S. says...

(Continued from page 1)

described a recent meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State "and in the end I told the secretary, both Arafat and you know the truth that we're not building (new) settlements at all and aren't even expanding them," Yediot quoted the letter as saying.

"Here, Albright gave me a sideways look with a smile, as if to say 'come on, really.' I withdrew a little from that formulation and said, 'almost not.' In fact, I don't know how much we are really building and expand-

ing."

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks broke off in March, after Israel began building a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, the sector claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

The United States has criticised Israel for building on disputed Jerusalem land and expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the United States has defended Israel in international arenas, such as the United Nations, arguing that censoring Israel would only be counterproductive.



Effective from June 15, '97

# English version of new companies' law to be issued before end of summer — Mismar

This is the first of a two-part article on the main amendments to the companies' law

By Samir Ghawi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Directorate of Companies' Control will issue the English version of the Companies Law No. 22 for the year 1997 before the end of this summer, Companies Comptroller Loay Mismar told the Jordan Times Monday.

Mr. Mismar said the law became effective on June 15. 30 days after it was published in the Official Gazette on May 15/1997.

The comptroller indicated that the main highlights in the law were the strengthening of the decentralisation concept, limiting routine procedures and facilitating the process of registering companies.

According to the new law, Mr. Mismar said, the approval for registering all types of companies, except the public shareholding companies, was entrusted to the comptroller instead of the minister. The Free Zones Corporation will register the companies operating in its domain.

The minister can delegate some of his authority to the Companies Comptroller who can also delegate his authority to any of his staff, Mr. Mismar added noting

that the 1997 law has also closed some legal gaps in the old 1989 law. Mr. Mismar referred to the government's drive to transform public institutions into public shareholding companies and, as such, some procedures were amended to shorten unnecessary transformation procedures.

Also, the opportunity was opened for the private sector to participate in providing services and consultations in areas that were better clarified in the new law.

A new type of company was introduced under the new law. Called "the companies not seeking profit" within the limits of the law, this type of company aims at offering a group of people the opportunity to take the form of a commercial company to simplify procedures and avoid the complexities of setting up a welfare society.

A main change to the old law was the cancellation of the "issuance committee" in order to speed up the registration of public shareholding companies and simplify raising their capital through offering shares for public or private subscription.

The new law clarified some articles applying to the civil companies,

which are set up between professional persons such as lawyers, engineers, doctors or auditors, especially with regard to the status of the partner and the death of one of the partners.

Double taxation was avoided, and companies are no longer required to pay a 15 per cent capitalising charge taking into consideration also that such a charge represented a barrier to capital reserves.

A new article was introduced in the law with regard to reserves. To be called "a special reserve" in addition to other reserves, no more than 20 per cent of the net profit of public shareholding companies should be allocated to such a reserve to face emergencies or finance expansion or strengthen the financial standing of the concerned companies.

According to Mr. Mismar, the changes in the new law include provisions that aim at introducing a quick and simple mechanism when specifying the premiums for public shareholding companies which seek to raise capital. The authority for approving the premiums was given to the board of directors of the concerned company and the underwriter instead of the "issuance committee."

Moreover, specifying the premium would depend on market forces, the companies' comptroller said.

## Israel, Poland initial free trade accord

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Poland have initiated a free trade area agreement that is scheduled to come into force in January 1998, Israel's Industry and Trade Ministry said Sunday.

The agreement was initiated in occupied Jerusalem on Thursday and the final agreement would be signed in Warsaw in July during a visit by Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, the ministry said.

The accord covers all industrial exports and many agricultural exports, said Gabriella Cohen, deputy director of the ministry's foreign trade administration.

"The first stage of reductions will come into force on Jan. 1, 1998 when duties on many industrial products will be either completely eliminated or reduced," Ms. Cohen told Reuters.

For other, more sensitive products duties will be eliminated by January 1999 apart from textile products on which duties will be eliminated a year later, she said.

Israel has signed free trade agreements with two other eastern European countries, Czech Republic and Slovakia, and is in negotiations for similar agreements with Hungary and Slovenia. Israel has free trade agreements also with the United States, Canada, the European Union and Turkey.

In 1996, Israeli exports to Poland totalled \$85 million against imports of \$20 million, the ministry said.

REUTERS

REUTERS

## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	EEK
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7208	0.6964	1.4322	115.20	1.3692	1663.40	1.9367	5.8074
DE Mark	0.5811	1.0000	0.3481	0.8323	67.00	0.8070	977.87	1.1249	3.3744
GB Sterling	1.6633	2.8690	1.0000	2.3680	192.17	2.3176	2806.23	3.2273	9.8809
CH Franc	0.6982	1.2010	0.4182	1.0000	80.42	0.9683	1174.41	1.3512	4.0813
JP Yen	0.0087	1.4925	0.5198	1.2422	1.0000	1.2049	14.39	167.92	5.0351
CA Dollar	0.7198	1.2445	0.4340	1.0383	1.20	1.0000	1215.63	1.4000	4.1928
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0220	0.3539	0.8851	1462.63	0.8251	1.0000	11.50	3.4492
FR Franc	0.1722	0.2963	0.1032	0.2457	19.36	0.2382	33.33	1.0000	2.9370

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	EEK
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7208	0.6964	1.4322	115.20	1.3692	1663.40	1.9367	5.8074
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	0.7060	3.7505	0.3770	3.8388	0.3023	3.6724	1535.50	3.3895
GB Sterling	0.2696	0.1888	0.5297	0.5325	5.1410	0.4270	5.1870	2168.79	4.7874
Bahrain Dinar	2.86	1.8781	9.9488	0.1005	0.97	0.8086	0.98	408.41	0.9037
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8519	0.74	4073.16	0.9811
Kuwait Dinar	3.3080	2.3420	12.4085	1.2470	12.04	1.0000	1.01	421.84	0.9312
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0213	1.0213	1.0000	0.8823	0.74	418.12	0.9230
Lebanese/1000	0.85	0.4611	2.4425	0.2455	2.3704	0.1989	2.3917	1.0000	2.2674
Egyptian	0.2850	0.2089	1.1065	0.1112	1.0739	0.0892	1.0835	453.02	1.0000

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	18.00	17.55				
WTI	18.70	18.35				
Bonny	18.00	17.55				
Dubai	16.85	16.64				
UL Gas	182.00	180.00				

Mid-East Currencies		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4591	0.1598	0.3813	30.7427	
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4688	0.1632	0.3902	31.3962	
KW Dinar	3.3080	5.8947	1.9873	4.7415	381.388	
BH Dinar	0.2770	0.4683	1.5958	3.8228	305.81	
CY Pound	1.9581	3.3863	1.1722	2.8014	225.331	

Metal Prices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Gold (oz's)	338.2	338.7				
Silver (oz's)	4.81	4.83				
Platinum (oz's)	418	423				
AL (3 Months)	1584	1587				
CU (3 Months)	2504	2508				
Zinc (3 Months)	1405	1410				
Lead (3 Months)	629	623				
Ni (3 Months)	7225	7230				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
USD	5.58	5.64	5.77	5.75	5.97	
GBP	6.56	6.71	6.88	6.88	7.12	
JRY	0.41	0.47	0.52	0.57	0.62	
DEM	3.00	3.03	3.10	3.14	3.20	
FRF	3.09	3.28	3.35	3.38	3.43	
CHF	1.16	1.12	1.18	1.43	1.46	
ITL	6.72	6.82	6.86	6.88	6.94	

Main Equity Indices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
New York	DOW JONES	7791.28	45.23	0.58	7797.87	7748.02
New York	S&P 500	894.23	-4.47	-0.5	898.7	893.54
London	FT-SE 100	4575	-18.9	-0.41	4597	4547
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20436.14	-50.8	0.25	20461.8	20380
Paris	CAC 40	2762.2	6.1	0.18	2768.48	2752.30
Frankfurt	DAX	3754.72	-33.55	-0.89	3776.08	3761.23

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Coffee (c/lbs)	199.33	Spot				
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1636	Spot				
Sugar (\$/ton)	325.5	Spot				
Wheat (\$/ton)	141	Spot				
Soybeans (c/lbs)	22.55	Spot				
Tea (\$/kg)	138	Spot				
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot				
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot				

JOD Cross Rates		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
US Dollar	0.708	0.710				
GB Sterling	1.7705	1.7764				
DE Mark	0.4087	0.4107				
CH Franc	0.4902	0.4927				
FR Franc	0.1212	0.1218				
JP Yen	0.8127	0.8166				
NL Guilder	0.3634	0.3652				
IT Lira	0.4183	0.4204				

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## UAE and Germany sign investment promotion deal

DUBAI (R) — Germany and the United Arab Emirates have signed a bilateral investment promotion and protection pact, Germany's ambassador to the UAE has said.

"Thanks to this agreement, we will definitely see greater German investment in the UAE," the ambassador said. "The agreement's goal is to increase the trade volume from Germany to the UAE and, of course, from the UAE to Germany."

The ambassador said 1996 figures showed German exports to the UAE

stood at 2.1 billion marks (\$1.21 billion) while UAE exports to Germany hovered at 213 million marks (\$123 million).

In 1995, UAE-German bilateral trade reached almost 2.6 billion marks.

On a visit to the UAE in March, German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said the Gulf was becoming increasingly important for Germany. He said German industry had been traditionally strong in Iran, but the focus had shifted from Iran to Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states.

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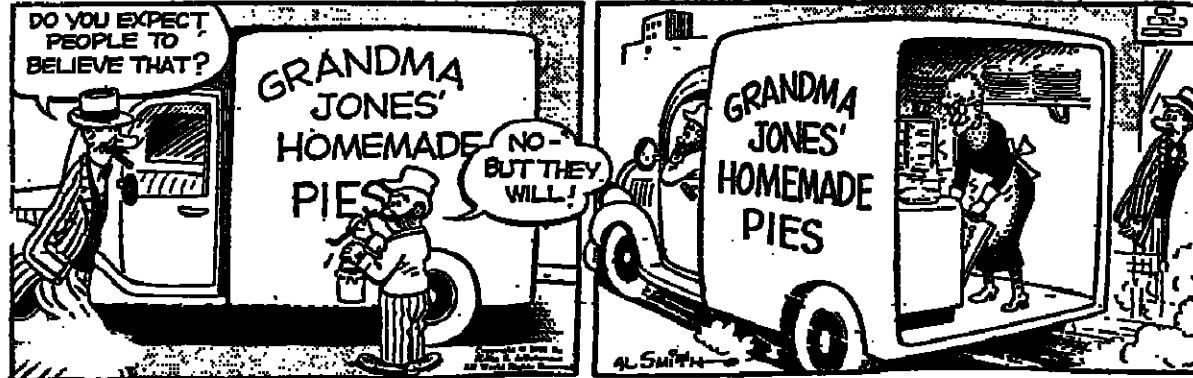
## Peanuts



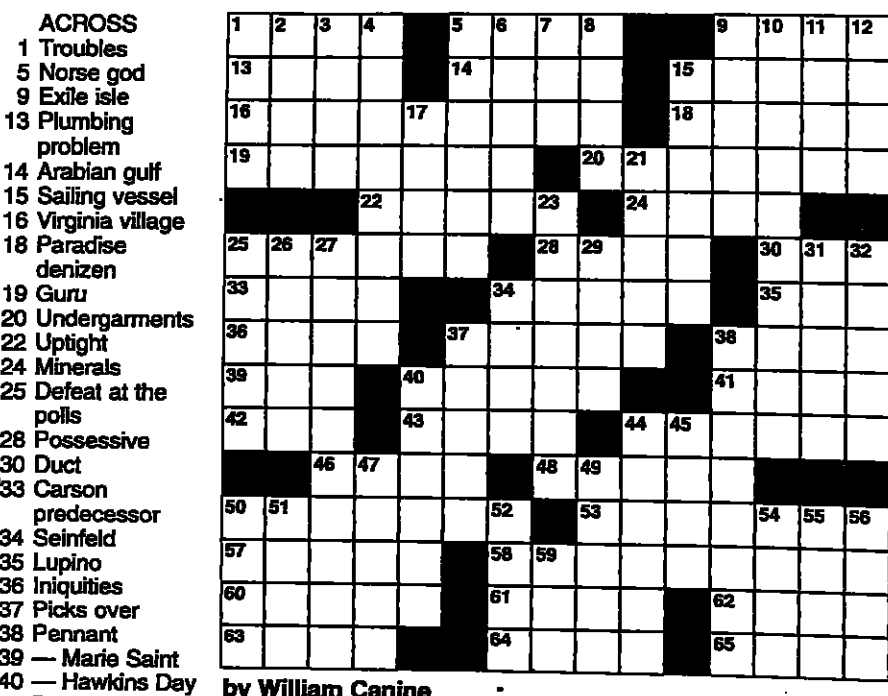
## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE Daily Crossword



by William Canine

1 Across	1 Down	2 Across	3 Down	4 Across	5 Down	6 Across	7 Down	8 Across	9 Down	10 Across	11 Down	12 Across	13 Down	14 Across	15 Down	16 Across	17 Down	18 Across	19 Down	20 Across	21 Down	22 Across	23 Down	24 Across	25 Down	26 Across	27 Down	28 Across	29 Down	30 Across	31 Down	32 Across	33 Down	34 Across	35 Down	36 Across	37 Down	38 Across	39 Down	40 Across	41 Down	42 Across	43 Down	44 Across	45 Down	46 Across	47 Down	48 Across	49 Down	50 Across	51 Down	52 Across	53 Down	54 Across	55 Down	56 Across	57 Down	58 Across	59 Down	60 Across	61 Down	62 Across	63 Down	64 Across	65 Down
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DOWN	1 Staff officer.	2 Dies —	3 Kind of bean	4 Phantoms	5 Dormant	6 Perfumes	7 London district	8 Motels	9 Abscond	10 Derby site	11 "Yesterday"	12 Sacred bull	15 Amontillado	17 Mets' stadium	21 City on the Loire	23 Facial features	25 Disturbed	26 Unworldly	27 Alamo site	29 Heraldic band	31 Saying	32 Scientist Carl	34 Art of defense	37 Printer's mark	38 Preface	40 Great impression	44 Cow	45 Asian sea	47 Out of order	49 Rulers	50 Beat it!	51 Mulberry bark	52 Zenith	54 Needlecase	55 Sicilian peak	56 Ruby and Sandra	59 Holbrook
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## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure you don't take any risks today where your credit is concerned. A financial expert can give you excellent advice on how to organize your budget, so listen to what is said and apply the advice.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Although financial matters seem to be working well today, be sure you know exactly where you are headed. Get plenty of rest after a tiring day, since the next few days will need all of your energy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You know what you want of a personal nature today, however, you have to get the support and information necessary to achieve this goal. Later this evening will be good for seeing friends at recreational activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Contact good friends today who know your ambitions and can be helpful to you in attaining them. Improve your social standing with career activities and in the community by doing something special.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You should not rush into any commitments today before you have the information needed to make a wise decision. Be sure you drive with utmost care while on the highway so that you can avoid any difficulties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A powerful acquaintance can help you today to attain a long sought after goal. An out of town difficulty can be handled quite easily at this time, so make an effort to analyse the situation to discover the best course of action.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A fellow associate can help you today to skillfully handle a difficult responsibility. Take your mate out for some fun later this evening, and renew your spirits by being together at some romantic location which is special.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you are efficient at your career activities today, you can make a fine impression on your superior. Take it easy at home later this evening, and get plenty of rest for the days ahead will be quite hectic.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Seek advice from a superior today on how you can better focus your energy to gain more prosperity, then follow advice given to you. Later this evening will be good for meeting with close friends for recreational activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you adopt a more kind attitude towards others today, you will get much better results. Be sure to find out the cost of amusements in advance, so that you won't be short of funds and be quite embarrassed.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't allow a family member to throw you off-schedule today or cause you to lose your temper, which will do absolutely no good. You should not renege on a promise which you have given to a fellow associate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you are planning a trip with your loved ones at this time, make the arrangements early so everything will go smoothly. Friends can help you solve a difficult situation, so seek out their advice.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Philadelphia Insurance Company boasts achieving high profit

THE PHILADELPHIA Insurance Company collected JD1.56 million in premiums last year compared to JD1.68 million earned in 1995.

According to the annual report, the fire and general accident department generated a JD43,958 profit after recording a total of JD347,628 in income from premiums which were JD129,705 higher than the amount collected in 1995.

The transport department earned JD122,833 in premiums compared to JD151,246 collected in 1995. Despite this slight drop, which was attributed to the company's policy of selectivity and the general decline in the volume of imports, the transport department achieved a JD52,215 profit in 1996.

The largest amount of premiums was collected by the vehicles department which recorded a total of JD1.09 million compared to JD1.31 million posted in 1995. Net profit generated amounted to JD101,407.

The report attributed the drop in premium to the company's smaller share of the third party insurance market and the reservation that the company expressed to certain specific types of vehicles' insurance.

It is regrettable that the third party insurance has led to noticeable losses resulting from the low premium in relation to the cost of repairs," the report said noting that the ministries of industry and trade, interior and justice should be aware of the issue that threatens the insurance sector in this area.

Paid claims were lower by two per cent in 1996 as they amounted to JD1.15 million, of which the company's share was only JD0.74 million. In 1995, paid claims totalled JD1.17 million, the company's share of which was JD0.90 million.

Reserves for outstanding claims at the end of last year stood at JD612,537 of which JD498,756 were the share of the company. The share was JD548,330 in 1995 out of JD655,864 of total reserves. Reserves for claims under settlement totalled JD1.56 million at the end of last year (JD1.54 million at the end of 1995).

Another important item shown in the annual report is a JD517,190 total of investments in public shareholding companies. This amount represents 81 per cent of the company's capital.

Moreover, the company enjoys cash and deposits at banks totalling JD1.98 million, an amount that represents 331 per cent of the capital.

Board Chairman Ishaq Kawasmi told the shareholders' general assembly that despite the unfavourable conditions, the company "achieved profits that are considered among the highest recorded by public shareholding companies in this country."

Mr. Kawasmi indicated that the JD255,276 net profit recorded by the company last year represented 42.5 per cent of the capital. By adding this profit to JD202,802 of retained earnings, the total profit available for various allocations becomes JD458,078.

The general assembly approved the financial statements and also authorised the board of directors to take all the necessary measures to raise the company's capital to JD2 million. The increase in capital will be through capitalising voluntary reserves and retained earnings and offering the remaining amount for private subscription by present shareholders (Al Ra'i, Al Dastour and Al Aswaj).

### More Gulf Arabs visit Jordan

THE NUMBER of tourists visiting Jordan declined this year because of mounting tension caused by deadlocked Mideast peace talks, tour operators said Monday.

"Western tourists regard Jordan as part of a region plagued by tension and instability caused by deadlocked peace talks," said Mazin Qaisi, who works for Prime Tours.

About 396,000 visitors came to Jordan between January and May this year, about 3.2 per cent less than the same period in 1996, Tourism Ministry figures indicate.

The number of American tourists declined by 7,000 to 42,000 and Europeans by 15,000 to 120,000, the figures show. But visitors from Arab Gulf states increased by 9,000 to 164,000 and from Israel by 1,000 to 50,000 this year, the figures show (AP).

## Fakes kill jobs, companies and people, conference told

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — Fake products ruin businesses, cost tens of thousands of jobs and even kill consumers, but with a turnover of more than \$100 billion they represent a large slice of world trade, a conference was told here.

Francois Eyssette, head of the French Manufacturers' Union, said that brand-name piracy was one of the most flourishing industries on Earth, spawned mainly in Asia but also around the Mediterranean.

He pointed the finger at China as the worst offender, while in Europe he singled out Italy, Turkey and Spain.

Fake machinery parts led to deaths — in France a woman was killed when the bonnet (hood) of her car failed to

deform in a crash and penetrated the cabin, and in Niger a cough syrup turned out to be deadly industrial solvent.

More than a third of companies did not defend themselves against the rip-off of their products, Mr. Eyssette said, citing a French shoe firm whose Japanese market had shrunk from its second outlet to its 30th in the world in a single year.

In Germany, counterfeit goods cost 60,000 jobs annually, and some manufacturers saw their turnover slump by 15 per cent in a year, said Volker Spitz, head of an association to combat trademark piracy.

One T-shirt manufacturer reckoned that one in two garments bearing its label was a fake, Mr. Spitz said.

Guido Jacobacci, vice-president of the Italian Industrialists' Association, said the phenomenon is particularly serious in his country, as it had multiplied 12-fold in a decade and now affected 80 per cent of manufacturing sectors.

Messrs. Volker, Jacobacci and French specialists present said organised crime was increasingly becoming involved. Mr. Jacobacci said that it was a way of "laundering" ill-gotten gains, and he warned that tolerating fakes amounted to encouraging criminality.

A Japanese representative of Eyssette's Association said fake goods had been hitting markets in Japan in increasing numbers.

## U.N. approves \$68m of Jordanian products to be sold to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of \$68.262.895 worth of contracts were awarded to Jordanian companies by the United Nations Sanctions Committee which supervises the oil-for-food deal reached between Iraq and the United Nations last year.

Sources at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply said the contracts were only a portion out of total contracts worth \$120 million submitted by Jordanian companies.

The sources added that Jordan's mission at the United Nations is in contact with the Sanctions Committee in order to secure the U.N. approval for the remaining contracts.

According to the ministry's sources, the Jordanian products to be sold to Iraq are detergents worth \$25,987,500, vegetable oil (\$23,550,000), medicine (\$16,998,395), salt (\$837,000) and other commodities worth \$890,000 for a total amount of \$68,262,895.

## Jordan secures \$25m loans from AMF and AFTP

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Jordan Monday signed agreements to obtain loans totalling \$25 million from the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Arab Trade Finance Programme (ATFP).

The agreements were signed in Abu Dhabi by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Ziyad Fariz and AMF Director General Jassem Mana'a and the executive president of the ATFP in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali who is visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Under the agreement with the AMF, Jordan is to get a \$12 million loan to help the Kingdom cover its balance of payments deficit which resulted from higher imports and prices of basic agricultural commodities, especially cereals, following a very bad agricultural season.

The loan corresponds to 50 per cent of Jordan's total share in the AMF's capital.

Under the other agreements with the ATFP, the Central Bank of Jordan will be offered credit facilities reaching up to \$12.5 million over an 18-month period to finance the import of food commodities from Arab countries.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. Fariz voiced appreciation of the help from the lending institutions saying that the loan will have its positive effect on economic development.

For his part, Dr. Mana'a said that the loans given to the Arab states aim at enhancing the process of economic integration among Arab countries.

## Rich Kuwaiti firm to move funds to Far East

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait-based National Industries Co. (NIC) which has over \$393 million invested abroad, has said it plans to gradually move its investment portfolio to emerging markets from the West.

"We are intending to move from the West to emerging economies as a general trend," NIC's Chief General Manager Robert Kottrich said. "We feel that over the next period the emerging economies are going to become a more stable bet."

NIC's cash reserves are mainly run by four international fund managers which are investing in Western markets.

But they would "probably suffer a little bit in the next few years...We are probably looking at the Far East rather than Latin America," he told Reuters in an interview.

The company, which last year paid \$154 million for the acquisition of the Birmingham-based B.I. Group PLC, has reported a 27 per cent rise in 1996 net profit to \$84 million.

"We have now several operating divisions. We have B.I. Group PLC, our building materials business, our steel businesses is another, and we have several more in prospect."

"Outside of that we have a lot of cash...Business has been profitable for many years and built up reserves," he added.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 23/06/1997											
PART 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	11.7	1.57	15	720	183620	254.00	255.00	1.00+	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	5	0.00	69	33226	69759	2.12	2.09	-0.03	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	7.1	0.00	38	111738	263786	3.22	3.27	0.05+	
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.3	7.58	5	1312	2926	2.24	2.23	-0.01	
5.200	4.250	THE JORDANIAN BK.	12.7	3.94	16	6872	33863	4.92	4.93	0.01+	
1.610	2.440	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	13.5	0.00	79	17770	68944	3.62	3.79	0.18+	
1.050	1.780	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.69	17	19400	17303	1.68	1.91	0.23+	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.29	5	1920	7008	3.64	3.65	0.01+	
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. F.M. BANK	20.2	0.00	6	813	2620	3.10	3.15	0.05+	
2.700	1.000	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITNA)	7	13.16	14	3425	2983	2.18	2.14	-0.04	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 196.81	%CHG: +0.51	264	197216	751832					
3.000	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.0	5.36	1	500	1400	2.80	2.80	-	
2.470	2.200	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	13.2	7.58	4	290	624	2.20	2.20	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 112.48	%CHG: 0.00	7	840	2118					
1.820	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	13	5484	9187	1.67	1.67	-	
9.250	7.800	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	1	280	3000	8.00	8.00	-	
2.650	2.090	SEWELING INDUS.	18.1	5.00	8	17810	46510	2.82	2.82	-0.02	
1.380	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	5	2200	2601	1.21	1.18	-0.03	
8.320	4.880	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	4	2450	2750	5.21	5.22	0.01+	
7.570	3.900	AD-RENTAL INDUS.	2.84	2.84	2	19100	10959	6.28	6.31	0.03+	
2.050	1.170	UNIF. EAST HOTELS	19.5	0.00	3	400	506	1.25	1.28	0.03+	
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.0	6.55	5	1900	3192	1.67	1.68	0.01+	
1.010	0.840	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	1650	1073	0.65	0.65	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 109.92	%CHG: -0.05	51	35330	78219					
4.450	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.5	2.70	19	7572	30760	4.03	4.08	0.05+	
7.050	4.950	ARAB POZEM CO.	15.5	3.00	4	1100	7330	6.65	6.67	0.02+	
10.250	8.720	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.4	9.13	11	10225	9997	9.75	9.74	-0.01	
3.260	2.650	INDUSTRIAL CORN. AG.	9	0.00	2	300	10040	1.95	1.94	-0.01	
7.150	6.400	JOR. WOODST. INDUS.	10.3	3.13	7	2059	13235	6.40	6.40	-	
4.000	3.040	ARAB FARM. INDUS.	10.6	5.19	29	19197	74160	3.84	3.85	0.01+	
5.560	4.250	DAR ALDAMA DV. IND.	13.5	4.53	8	1810	9977	5.21	5.22	0.01+	
3.850	2.770	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.6	5.93	5	2287	80	2.80	2.80	-	
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	4	4750	2263	0.47	0.48	0.01+	
1.320	0.800	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	2	1500	795	0.53	0.53	-	
1.320	0.800	INTERMED. PAPER. INDUS.	9	0.00	17	6850	4016	0.60	0.59	-0.01	
3.090	1.580	JOR. ROPEWORK INDUS.	9	0.00	1	1800	1098	0.61	0.61	-	
3.330	2.130	NATL. CABLE WIRE. INDUS.	40.9	0.00	2	1500	3825	2.52	2.55	0.03+	
950	550	JOR. SULPHUR-CHERN	9	0.00	4	1500	835	0.55	0.56	0.01+	
1.670	1.120	ARAB FARM. INDUS.	17.7	5.04	5	1250	1730	1.39	1.39	-	
2.400	1.290	UNIV. MOON INDUS.	9	0.00	10	4850	6230	1.30	1.28	-0.02	
1.520	1.110	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	15.1	8.93	16	6398	7160	1.12	1.12	-	
1.600	1.300	NATL. CHEMICALS	13.8	4.79	7	9458	13608	1.46	1.46	-	
1.160	0.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.6	0.00	3	950	808	0.85	0.85	-	
2.090	1.450	EL-ZAY READY WEAR	50.7	0.00	4	750	1084	1.45	1.44	-0.01	
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	8	7950	9116	1.15	1.15	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 127.90	%CHG: +0.38	169	84866	205186					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 159.97	%CHG: +0.41	491	318252	1037354					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 23/06/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL GULF STORAGE	9	0.00	1	1500	585	0.39	0.39	-	
700	430	JOR. TRADE FNC.	12.3	0.00	18	34200	15877	0.47	0.46	-0.01	
1.550	1.120	SARA FOR INVESTMENT	45.1	0.00	12	105000	125500	1.15	1.10	-0.05	
700	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	14	20100	10040	0.49	0.50	0.01+	
950	610	AL-DIMELTAN 75%	59.5	0.00	2	280	103	0.63	0.62	-0.01	
570	200	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JERICO	9	0.00	2	600	139	0.23	0.24	0.01+	
590	420	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	48.4	0.00	1	1000	420	0.42	0.42	-	
720	400	NATL. TRADING	9	0.00	3	400	185	0.48	0.48	-0.01	
750	400	NATL. WOOD. INDUS. HANICO	9	0.00	47	78554	47753	0.60	0.60	-	
960	900	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.5	0.00	2	9000	4780	0.95	0.95	-	
850	720	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	0.00	2	1500	185	0.74	0.74	-	
720	400	KIDNEY SPARK 75%	9	0.00	1	150	59	0.63	0.64	0.01+	
1.220	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	3	1800	1170	0.90	0.90	-	
700	550	RACE FARM. 85%	9	0.00	2	1500	645	0.58	0.58	-	
600	370	INDUS. ENG.	22.8	0.00	9	22550	8344	0.38	0.37	-0.01	
880	760	INDUS. CERAMIC	20.7	0.00	1	350	277	0.79	0.79	-	
520	290	TEXTILE HANCO	9	0.00	4	155	44	0.29	0.28	-0.01	
760	550	PEARL SAN. P. CO.	9	0.00	1	100	57	0.57	0.57	-	
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	4	3350	2178	0.66	0.65	-0.01	
1.000	810	NAT. ALUMINUM 75%	9	0.00	6	1750	988	0.82	0.82	-	
1.020	720	ARAB INT. FOOD FRUCT.	37	0.00	1	200	154	0.80	0.78	-0.02	
470	530	KID-SEAL COMPLEX	8.0	15.38	5	6250	4043	0.65	0.65	-	
GRAND TOTAL				141	285036	91532					





## Copa America

# Brazil, Mexico reach semis

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (R) — Mexico finally won a penalty shoot-out as they reached the Copa America semi-finals Sunday while Brazil overcame Paraguay in a disappointing game thanks to two goals by Ronaldo.

Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert also inevitably made his mark on the second game, denying Ronaldo a hat-trick when he saved a penalty.

Mexico's last two World Cup campaigns have ended with penalty shoot-outs against Germany in 1986 and Bulgaria in 1994.

On both occasions, Mexico missed two penalties as their players appeared to crack under the pressure.

But they won Sunday's shoot-out against Ecuador 4-3 after the match in Cochabamba, 2,600 metres above sea level, had finished 1-1.

Mexico's marksmanship still left much to be desired as they missed two attempts but they were helped by goalkeeper Adolfo Rios who saved three Ecuadorian efforts.

Mexico travel to high-altitude La Paz to face host nation Bolivia in Wednesday's first semi-final.

Ecuador, who held Argentina scoreless and surprisingly beat Paraguay on their way to winning their first round group,



Brazil's Roberto Carlos (L) chests the ball as Paraguay's Arce Francisco looks on during their Copa America quarter final. Brazil won 2-0 and advance to the semi-finals against Peru (Reuters photo)

made an early breakthrough when captain Luis Capurro, who missed his attempt in the shoot-out, scored from the penalty spot.

Cuauhtemoc Blanco equalised for Mexico 12 minutes later.

Brazil will face Peru Thursday in the other semi-final.

Ronaldo's killer instinct was the real difference between the sides in an even game where Paraguay created several chances but could not get on the score sheet.

In the 17th minute, he won the ball off an oppo-

nent, used his explosive acceleration to burst away and then fired the ball beyond the helpless Chilavert.

He scored from a similar position in the 34th minute after Denilson slipped a clever pass between the Paraguayan defenders. Paraguay claimed he was offside.

In the second half, Brazil were awarded a penalty when Chilavert was adjudged to have fouled Ronaldo.

The furious Paraguayan captain protested so loudly that he was booked but he

had the last laugh when he brilliantly saved Ronaldo's shot.

Chilavert had two attempts to score from his trademark free kicks but fired one effort into the defensive wall and blasted his second in the direction of the Andean foothills.

"Brazil won on our errors. They took advantage of our mistakes and scored two goals," said Chilavert, who was given a standing ovation by the Bolivian fans in the crowd but was jeered and insulted by the Brazilians.

## Orioles widen lead with win over Blue Jays

TORONTO (R) — Cal Ripken had two RBI doubles and Scott Kamieniecki pitched six strong innings as the Baltimore Orioles built their lead in the American League East with a 5-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays Sunday.

Jeffrey Hammonds added a two-run homer for the Orioles, who took two out of three from the Jays and opened a nine-game lead over the second-place Yankees. Toronto is in third, 14 1/2 games back.

"It wasn't pretty the job we did, but we got it done," Orioles manager Davey Johnson said.

Ripken had a run-scoring double in a two-run first and another in the fifth that snapped a 2-2 tie, both off starter Robert Person (2-5). The doubles were the 500th and 501st of Ripken's career. "I'm happy," Ripken said of the milestone. "I'm glad it's over. You just can concentrate on getting hits. It was a well-played series."

The Orioles improved to a league-best 26-13 away from home.

Joe Carter drove in both runs for the Blue Jays, who have lost 10 of their last 15 home games.

At Texas, Ken Griffey Jr. and Jay Buhner homered to power the Seattle Mariners to a 6-4 victory, completing their first four-game sweep of the Rangers since 1987.

In Anaheim, Jim Edmonds' RBI single capped a two-run seventh inning

and rallied the Angels to a 7-6 victory that completed a four-game sweep of the Oakland Athletics.

Dave Hollins, Chad Kreuter and Gary Disarcina each had two hits and an RBI for the Angels, who have won the last seven meetings with Oakland.

Four Anaheim pitchers limited the A's to six hits, but three were solo homers — by Damon Mashore, Geronimo Berroa and Canseco, whose game-tying shot in the sixth off Steve Finley was his first of the season off a left-hander and first in 41 career at-bats against Finley.

In Chicago, Jaime Navarro allowed one run over eight innings and Ray Durham delivered two sacrifice flies as the White Sox edged the Minnesota Twins 2-1 for their fourth win in five games.

Navarro (5-6) struck out eight and walked one as he picked up his first victory in his last six starts. He retired 13 straight Minnesota batters from the second through the sixth innings, striking out six in that span.

Roberto Hernandez pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 16th save and 150th of his career.

Frank Thomas, activated from the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day, went 0-for-4 for Chicago. Thomas, the leading hitter in the American League with a .383 average, had missed the last 13 games with a strained rib cage muscle.

In Cleveland, Brian Anderson allowed two runs over seven innings and Sandy Alomar hit a three-run homer in the fourth to lead the Indians past the New York Yankees, 5-2.

In Milwaukee, Chili Davis's three-run homer with one out in the eighth lifted the Kansas City Royals to a 6-5 victory over the Brewers, who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Bob Wickman (4-3) took the loss in relief of starter Ben McDonald.

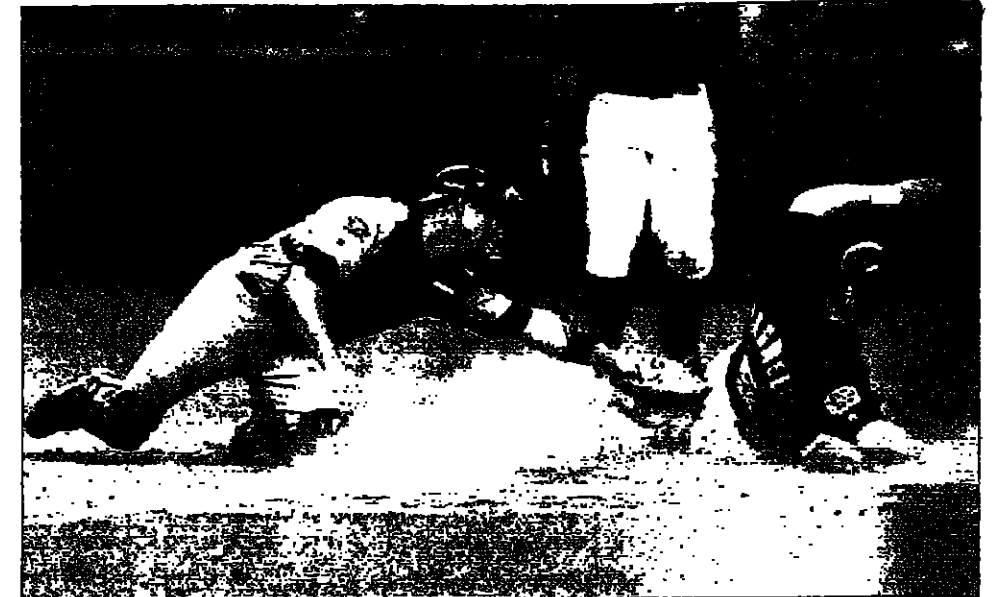
Hipolito Pichardo (2-2), who surrendered the go-ahead run for Milwaukee while retiring two batters in the seventh, earned the win. Chris Haney worked a perfect eighth inning and Jeff Montgomery gave up Johnny Burnitz's homer with two out in the ninth, but notched his second save.

In Detroit, the Boston Red Sox served a 2-1 victory over the tigers when shortstop Nomar Garciaparra's throw home off a relay from left fielder Wil Cordero got to catcher Scott Haneberg in time for him to tag Brian Johnson at the plate for the final out of the game.

Boston's Reggie Jefferson, who had three hits, scored the go-ahead run in the seventh on troy O'Leary's double.

Tom Gordon (5-6) got the win. Willie Blair (4-4), who carried a no-hitter into the fifth, too the loss, giving up both runs and five hits in 6 2/3 innings.

## Astros six-hit cubs, Bagwell homers again



Chicago Cubs catcher Mike Hubbard (L) reaches back to tag out Houston Astros Jeff Bagwell (R), who attempted to score off of a double by Luis Gonzalez. The Astros won 3-1 (Reuters photo)

HOUSTON (R) — Mike Hampton and Billy Wagner combined on a six-hitter to make Jeff Bagwell's two-run homer stand up and give the Houston Astros a 3-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs Sunday, completing a three-game sweep.

Hampton (3-6) gave up a run and five hits with three walks and four strikeouts in eight-plus innings. He allowed a leadoff double to Ryne Sandberg in the ninth before giving way to Wagner. Kevin Orie doubled to end the shutout, but was caught in a rundown on Mike Hubbard's bouncer back to the box.

"Hampton was outstanding," Astros manager Larry Dierker said. "He had good command of his fastball, his slider and his changeup. Those three pitches were so good, they kept them off balance."

Wagner struck out Rey Sanchez and got pinch-hitter Jose Hernandez to ground out, clinching his 13th save of the season and Hampton's first victory in eight starts since May 8.

Craig Biggio doubled to lead off the game and Pat Listach sacrificed him to third before Bagwell poked

his National League-leading 22nd homer of the season barely over the wall in right field.

"I've not done much of that this year," Bagwell said about homering to the opposite field. "I've pretty much pulled everything this season. I didn't think it was going out of the ballpark and I was surprised when it went out."

Bagwell has 166 career homers, matching him with Glenn Davis for second place on Houston's all-time list. Jimmy Wynn is first

with 223. The Astros lead the National League Central Division by three games, ahead of the Cardinals.

The Cubs have lost five straight for the first time since May of last season. Kevin Foster (8-5) took the loss.

In New York, Carl Everett smashed a three-run homer in the bottom of the 10th as the Mets completed a four-game sweep with a 12-9 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In St. Louis, Alan Benes

allowed one earned run and four hits over eight innings and Brian Jordan had two hits and two RBI, leading the Cardinals past the Cincinnati Reds, 5-2.

In Philadelphia, Chipper Jones and Fred McGriff hit back-to-back homers as the Atlanta Braves smacked four home runs in a nine-run third inning en route to a 12-5 trouncing of the Phillies, who have lost eight straight games.

Jeff Blauser, Michael Tucker and Jones, the first three batters in the Atlanta lineup, went 9-for-14 with three homers, four doubles, eight RBI and seven runs scored.

Greg Maddux (9-3) got the win and Garrett Stephenson (2-3) took the loss.

In Montreal, Edgar Renteria's two-out single in the top of the ninth scored Todd Dunwoody with the go-ahead run and five pitchers combined on a six-hitter as the Florida Marlins defeated the Expos 2-0.

Florida has won eight of its last 11 games. The Marlins took two of three games from the Expos in a series that saw just 12 runs. The Expos lost for the third time in their last 15 games.

In San Diego, Tony Gwynn's three-run double keyed a four-run eighth inning and rallied the Padres past the Colorado Rockies 4-2.

In San Francisco, first baseman Eric Karpis's error on a slow bouncer by Mark Lewis in the seventh allowed J.T. Snow to race home with the go-ahead run as the Giants stopped the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Eastbourne final abandoned

EASTBOURNE (R) — Rain forced the Eastbourne women's grasscourt final between Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Jana Novotna to be abandoned after it was carried over into an extra day on Sunday. Spain's Sanchez Vicario and her Czech opponent split the \$79,400 first prize after persistent showers prevented them completing even one set. Novotna was leading 6-5 when the final was called off after she complained about the slippery court, though the Spaniard appeared ready to continue playing.

### ATF maintains ban on Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Arab Tennis Federation has voted to maintain a ban on Iraq that has been in place since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA reported on Sunday. Federation Chairman Sami Al-Ibrahim told the agency that federation members voted unanimously to uphold the ban during a meeting in Cairo last week.

### Krajicek wins in Rosmalen

ROSMALLEN (AFP) — Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek made short work of Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in the final of the ATP grasscourt event here on Sunday before leaping into a helicopter bound for south London to prepare for the defence of his grand slam crown. The big-serving 25-year-old, captured his third title of the year with a 6-4, 7-6 (9-7) defeat of Raoux.

## Borg has no regrets

PRAGUE (R) — Once in a while former Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg just can't resist the past.

"I have to admit that sometimes I still take the court with my old wooden Donnay racket. It feels pretty good and I know what I am doing. It's something that feels comfortable," said Borg, winner of 11 Grand Slam titles — the most in the open era.

Borg, now 41, left the game in 1983 when still at the top. But despite a series of personal problems which have overshadowed his accomplishments on court, he says he has no regrets over his decision to leave the game in 1983.

"I left the game at 27 but I really don't regret my move," Borg, five times winner of Wimbledon and six times winner of the French Open, said. "People say I could have played more, won more Grand Slams. Maybe it's true but I am happy with my choice."

As successful as the Swede was on court, with 62 tour titles, Borg's life has been far less spectacular away from it.

He tried a brief comeback in 1992, as much for money as for pride, but found the game had changed so much that he would be lucky to win a qualifying event.

In March he was near bankruptcy due to a series of failed business dealings, saved from creditors by friends who could not bear to see one of the greatest tennis players of all time defeated.

These days, the ever-cool Borg is once again on tour — the ATP Seniors Tour — but this time using a metal racket.

And, on the eve of Wimbledon, what does the player who revolutionised the game with his deft touch and steady strokes from the baseline think of today's power game?

"Sometimes it's not so much fun to see two guys who hit ace after ace but still you have a lot of great talent and tennis out there," Borg said.

He believes that, with players becoming stronger and better-trained and with the advances in equipment, there is only one way for the game to go — faster.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TANIA HIRSCH  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AA93 010822 08 AAQJ36

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 1c 1a

What do you bid now?

Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK QAJ36 0Q7632 485

Your right hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

48543 0AQ25 0763 445

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 1a Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

AAK10854 067 0Q8 4Q84

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1c Pass 1a Pass

2c Pass 7c

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

41093 0AKJ764 06 4K82

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1c Pass 1a Pass

2c Pass 5c

What do you bid now?

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AS 08 0AKQJ7 4AK8763

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

INT Pass Pass 7c

What action do you take?



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Previous participants can obtain a set of tender documents free of charge. A bid bond equals 5% of the offer total amount valid for 120 days should be submitted with the offers.

Commercial and technical offers should be submitted in separate sealed envelopes. Offers must be submitted at company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs of Sunday 13.7.1997.

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CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh ... in

GONE WITH THE WIND

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Jean Claude Van Damme ... in

MAXIMUM RISK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

Tom Cruise...in

JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan...in

SPACEJAM

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Former U.S. tennis star Chris Evert (R) reacts to compatriot and fellow former Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova adjusting her hair during the official opening of the new Number 1 court at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships June 23. Champions who have won at least three singles titles at the All England Club were honored in the ceremony performed by the Duke of Kent (Reuters photo)



Former Wimbledon champions Boris Becker of Germany (C), Pete Sampras of the U.S. (R) and compatriot John McEnroe look on during the official opening of the new Number 1 court at the Wimbledon (Reuters photo)

## Legends on parade as Wimbledon gets underway

LONDON (AFP) — Ten former champions, who had each won at least three singles titles, returned to Wimbledon on Monday to take part in the unveiling of the new number-one showcourt as the 1997 championships got underway.

The impressive arena, part of the massive redevelopment scheme to launch the All England Club firmly into the 21st century, was packed to its 11,500 capacity as the Duke of Kent, president of the All England Club, performed the opening ceremony.

Men's champions Rod Laver (1961, 1962,

1968, 1969), John Newcombe (1967, 1970, 1971), John McEnroe (1981, 1983 and 1984), Boris Becker (1985, 1986 and 1989) and Pete Sampras (1993, 1994, 1995) and former women titleholders Louise Brough of the United States (1948, 1949, 1950 and 1955), Margaret Court (1963, 1965, 1970), Billie-Jean King (1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975), Chris Evert (1974, 1976, 1981) and Martina Navratilova (1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990) were given a tremendous reception as they filed onto the new court following ball-

boys carrying flags, to receive commemorative silver salvers.

After the ceremony, which just managed to finish before rain caused further delays, Britain's fourteenth seed Tim Henman opened his 1997 campaign against left-handed Canadian Daniel Nestor, taking the first set on the tiebreak.

Henman is hoping to become the first British player to win the event since Fred Perry won Wimbledon for a third time in 1936.

## Ivanisevic beats the rain on opening day Majoli, Moya, Krajicek through

LONDON (AFP) — Second-seed Goran Ivanisevic wasted no time when he launched his tenth Wimbledon campaign at the All England Club here Monday outplaying first-round opponent Romanian Dinu Pescariu in straight-sets in just 67 minutes.

The 25-year-old Croatian shrugged off the number two court's reputation as being the 'graveyard of champions' by producing a workmanlike 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory — finishing in a light drizzle.

The 23-year-old Pescariu, who is ranked 106th, could hardly have expected great things from his Wimbledon debut after a season in which he has played just three matches — losing all of them. He went down to Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia in Doha, Pete Sampras at the Australian Open and Karim Alami of Morocco in Bologna.

There was better news for Pescariu's compatriot Irina Spirea in the women's event.

The 23-year-old from Bucharest, who has never got further than the third round in three previous visits, became Wimbledon's first 1997 winner when she raced past Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-0 in just 42 minutes. In the second round she plays the winner of an all-Russian showdown between Tatiana Panova and Elena Marakova.

Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva was another early winner. She defeated Britain's Julie Pullin 6-1, 6-3. She now plays either Ginger Helgeson-Nielsen of the United States or Britain's Lucie Ahl.

Ivanisevic, who slammed down 24 aces against Pescariu, had no sooner left the court than play at the championships was halted by rain.

In the women's singles, French Open champion Iva Majoli, who was so angry when she was beaten on an outside court at Eastbourne last week, won her first-ever match at Wimbledon when she beat Mariana Diaz Oliva of Argentina.

But she took time to adapt to the fast surface and number-two showcourt and

dropped the 24-minute first set before surging back to score a 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 victory in 1hrs 12mins.

The win will have boosted the Croatian's confidence after her first-round defeats in her previous visits to Wimbledon in 1994 and 1995, and she now plays either Marion Maruska of Austria or Adriana Gersi of the Czech Republic.

Lindsay Davenport, the fifth seed, was given a fright before coming back to beat fellow-American

Tami Jones 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 while Japanese player Mana Endo went out in straight-sets 6-3, 6-3 to Spain's Gala Leon Garcia.

In the men's singles, British wild-card entry Andrew Richardson beat Spanish qualifier Sergi Duran 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-3 while New Zealander Brett Steven beat Frenchman Lionel Roux 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/0).

Tenth-seed Carlos Moya of Spain dropped a set but came safely through against American 'lucky-loser'

Steve Bryan, scoring a 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 win in 2hrs 14mins, but Belgium's French Open semi-finalist Filip Dewulf threw away a two sets to one lead and went out at the first hurdle to Germany's Andrei Pavel 6-1, 2-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

As renewed rain stopped play for the third time,

Britain's 14th seed Tim Henman was leading Daniel Nestor of Canada 7-6 (13/11), 6-1, 0-1 on the new number-one showcourt, while on centre-court defending champion Richard Krajicek was comfortably clear of Marcello Craca of Germany 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 1-1.

## Wihdat return to competitions

### Ticket sales formula amended; Wihdat's postponed matches after Pan-Arab Games

By Aleen Bannayan and Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's soccer champions Al Wihdat ended their boycott of the Premier League and Jordan Cup contests when the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) announced the cancelling of their decision regarding the distribution of ticket sales revenues, the club's chairman Bahjat Shihab said Monday.

He told the Jordan Times that his club's decision came following the meeting headed by JSF's Vice-Chairman Saleh Irsheidat, on Monday.

"The crisis is over. We got our rights and our demands were fairly met," Mr. Shihab said following the meeting.

He added that Al Wihdat's decision to end their boycott was made because the JSF had brought back the old formula regarding revenues, which allocate 35 per cent to the two clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 25 per cent to the JSF and 5 per cent to the first and second division clubs.

The formula rejected by Al Wihdat had 28 per cent to the clubs which are contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 32 per cent to the JSF while the remaining 5 per cent were to be given to first and second divisions.

"We thank HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent, for his intervention which guaran-

teed our rights," Mr. Shihab said.

He said that the meeting had decided that the club's June 19 match against Al Baqaa, which Al Wihdat did not play will be held after the national team's return from the Pan-Arab Games next month.

Al Wihdat had explained their rejection of the formula at a meeting with JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah in which the Kingdom's soccer champions made no change on their decision to boycott the competitions and noted that their club's decision to rejoin the season's contests depended on Monday's JSF meeting.

The JSF meeting also discussed Al Wihdat's decision to refrain from playing the final match of the Federation Shield, which was scheduled to be held on May 26 but was indefinitely postponed because of Al Faisali's demand to enlist foreign referees.

While the JSF regulations bar foreign referees from officiating local matches, Al Wihdat did not object to Faisali's demand but the JSF did not reach a decision, which led to the postponement of the match.

Mr. Bahjat said that his club will play the final game against Al Faisali despite their previous stand to consider their team winner of the Federation Shield according to JSF regulations which state that any club that refuses to play a final match be considered a loser with a 3-0 result.

The JSF decision noted that the final match be held after the Pan-Arab Games. Foreign referees will be enlisted if Al Faisali insist on their demand.

## Britain and Russia win European Cup titles

MUNICH (R) — Britain captured the men's crown and Olga Kuzenkova twice bettered the women's hammer world record to help Russia win the women's title in the European Cup on Sunday.

Kuzenkova, competing in an event included in the women's programme at the European Cup for the first time, threw 71.22 metres in the first round and then swung the 4.025-kg hammer 73.10 metres in the following round.

Britain, lying fourth in the men's event overnight, collected five victories on Sunday to lift the Bruno Zauli trophy for the first since 1989. The German hosts had to settle for second place in both men's and women's competitions.

Linford Christie, who made his debut as the British men's captain at the

1989 European Cup, capped his last appearance in the competition by taking joint first place in the 200 metres in 20.56 seconds.

Christie looked certain to win outright until Georgios Panayiotopoulos of Greece made an inspired surge over the last 20 metres to draw level with the 1992 Olympic 100 metres champion.

The victory was a record 17th for Christie in European Cup competitions.

It will also be his last if he sticks to his stated intention that this was to be his last cup outing.

Best British performance came from triple jump world record-holder Jonathan Edwards, who defied the cold and damp conditions to jump 17.74 metres, the best performance in the world this

year.

Other second day British men's victories came from Olympic silver medallist Steve Backley in the javelin with a throw of 86.86 metres, Robert Hough in the 3,000 metres steeplechase in eight minutes 35.03 seconds and the 4x400 metres relay squad, who won easily in 2:59.46.

Germany, the 1996 European Cup winners, finished second in the men's competition with 105 points while Russia were third with 104 points.

Russia's Maxim Tarasov, the 1992 Olympic champion, cleared a personal best 5.95 metres in the pole vault and scored an important psychological victory over Jean Galfione of France, the 1996 Olympic gold medallist, in the build-up to August's World Championships in Athens.

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## Storm brewing in Egypt as peasants face eviction

BENI SUEF (AFP) — A storm is brewing in the Egyptian countryside with peasant farmers warning of a revolution if an agrarian reform law providing for their eviction is implemented in October.

Atef Abdel Halim, a 56-year-old peasant, warned that there will be "blood" if they are kicked off their land.

"If they turn me out of the land I'll always find a way of getting it back," said Mr. Halim, from the usually tranquil town of Beni Suef, 125 kilometres south of Cairo.

"Petty thieves will flourish, burglaries will spread and then people will kill each other," he warned.

Peasant leader Abdallah Sayyed Goda, 67, said: "A revolution laid out the first agrarian reform law and a revolution will erupt if the government does not intervene."

Mr. Goda wants the government to fix the price of new rents to avoid violence in this town of rambling families, where peasants or fellahins live off tiny parcels of land, planting corn, wheat, cotton or fodder.

At the heart of the looming crisis is a 1992 law which immediately raised rents from seven to 22 times the land tax but also removed the ceiling on rent rises and allowed landowners to evict tenants at the end of a five-year period, which expires in October.

The rent liberalisation law undoes legislation adopted at the height of the 1952 revolution, which confiscated huge masses of land from landlords and gave tenants security over rented

land at low prices.

For Reem Saad, an anthropologist at the American University in Cairo: "The situation is a time bomb. There is a pervasive and justified feeling that anything is now possible."

Agriculture Minister Youssef Wali has said the new law would be implemented on time "to make justice between tenants and landlords."

"The rents have been liberalised since 1992 and less than 12 per cent of the land is now at conflict. If any tenant is hurt the ministry will examine ways of compensating him, of giving him another piece of land," the minister's spokesman, Fathi Sahili said.

But opposition parties and experts say up to six million people will be affected and warn that in the long run Egypt's traditional cultures could suffer if landlords decide to give them up for higher cash-earning crops.

"More than a million feddan (acres) are at stake and small tenants will suffer the most," said Shabinda Maglad, a leftist opposition militant.

For Francois Ireton, of the French research centre Cedej, the future is bleak. "If there really be a liberalisation of rents, many peasants will be unable to pay the new rents. This could trigger riots and violence."

An official census published in 1990 said that 33 per cent of Egypt's agriculture land is rented, or one third of the total of 3.4 million agricultural concerns.

Abdel Fadil Mahmoud Salam, a 65-year-old peasant leader, stands to lose

one acre of land that helps feed his children and grandchildren — 27 people in all — to a landlord who "wants to build an amusement park on the land."

"I will not give up the land. I will fight and the others with me," said Mr. Salam.

"The situation is one of 'land-for-peace,' like for the Palestinians; if the government wants peace we must keep the land," he said.

According to opposition sources nine people have been killed since January in tenant-landlord conflicts, dozens hurt and more than 100 arrested, including opposition party members.

"Our Koran says he who dies securing his bread dies a martyr," said Ezzat Shehata Lteif, a 54-year-old father of nine.

Like many tenants Mr. Lteif is praying that his landlord will raise the rent rather than drive him out of the land.

Fawziya Osman Mursi said any rent increase would mean "having to sell the clothes off my back to feed my children. I have nothing but God and this land."

But landlord Abdel Aziz Taha Mursi, 75, has no fears: "The law is absolutely just. It gives everyone his rights. Only those who refuse a rent increase will be evicted."

Mr. Mursi said he plans to raise annual rents from 620 pounds to 1,500 pounds.

"Enough, is enough. They (the tenants) have had a free hand for 45 years. Some even managed to buy over the land they rented while landlords could not dispose of their property," Mr. Mursi said.

## French minister urges Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions

NEW YORK (AFP) — French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, met here Monday with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, on the sidelines of the Earth Summit, urging Baghdad to comply "without reserve" to United Nations resolutions.

For Mr. Vedrine, the meeting was "a chance to recall to his counterpart the necessity for Iraq to apply without reservation all Security Council resolutions affecting the country," said French foreign

ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummelhardt. "Only this attitude will permit Iraq, as France wishes, to reenter the international community," he added.

The meeting was in line with previous meeting held between Mr. Aziz and Mr. Vedrine's predecessors at the French Foreign Ministry, said Mr. Rummelhardt.

Foreign ministers of Germany, Italy and Spain are also to meet Mr. Aziz during the U.N. Earth

Summit which opened here Monday, a European diplomatic source said.

Under the terms of the ceasefire in the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq must grant unconditional access for the U.N. inspectors in charge of eliminating its weapons of mass destruction since the conflict over Kuwait.

The United Nations on Saturday warned of new sanctions on Baghdad if inspectors report in October that Iraq is still failing to cooperate.

## Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander jailed for treason

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian court has sentenced a former commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards to 10 years in prison after convicting him of having contacts with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a newspaper reported Monday.

Bijan Shafaq, who served in the guards during the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, is also accused of embezzling 10 billion rials, a charge for which he has not yet been tried.

The government daily Iran, quoting military justice chief, Ali Yunesi, said Shafaq fled to Germany with the money, but was lured back by Iran's intelligence services six months ago.

Mr. Yunesi said the accused had made contact with CIA

operatives in Germany, but did not give further details. Shafaq received 10 years in jail for his "treason," he added.

The punishment is unusually lenient for espionage charges, as those accused of spying for Iran's arch enemies Israel and the United States are usually condemned to death.

The Revolutionary Guards Corp., a formidable force set up after the 1979 Islamist revolution, is made up of Islamist loyalists and runs in parallel with the regular army.

Charges against the guards, known as Pasdaran, are rarely made public. Also in Iran, twelve senior officials have been imprisoned for diverting public funds appropriated for

reconstruction of earthquake-hit areas in northern Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported Monday.

Mohammad Ali Behmanesh, a member of the Technical Commission of the State Housing Foundation, was convicted of taking millions of dollars in bribes from foreign companies, it said.

He was sentenced to 30 years in prison and relieved of his duties after being made to pay back the ill-gotten money and a hefty fine.

The others received lesser jail terms and were fined for their role in the swindling of funds allocated to rebuild regions in Rudbar and Zanjan devastated by a 1990 quake which left around 40,000 dead.

## Iran's cinema chief resigns

TEHRAN (AFP) — The conservative director of the cinema department of Iran's culture ministry has resigned from his post ahead of the swearing in of the new administration of moderate president-elect, Mohammad Khatami, newspapers reported on Monday.

Ezzatollah Zargami's departure follows unhappiness among film-makers with his ideological approach to the arts and comes amid expectation of sweeping changes in the culture ministry.

Culture Minister Mostafa Mirsalim appointed

Mohammad Rajabi, the head of Farabi Cinema Foundation, which seeks to promote Iranian movies abroad, to head the cinema department.

Mr. Rajabi is a moderate figure more respected among directors and actors.

Mr. Zargami, a former commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, was appointed to his post two years ago to the joy of fundamentalists unhappy with the international arguments that the production of revolutionary movies and war propaganda lacked artistic merit.

festivals, seeing it as a "plot" to dilute the Islamic republic's revolutionary values.

During his sponsorship, Mr. Zargami laid down strict rules for film-making in Iran, such as a ban on "inappropriate close-ups of women" and reinforcing the dress code for female actors.

He said last year that Iran intended to use cinema as a channel to export its 1979 Islamic revolution to other Muslim countries, rejecting arguments that the production of revolutionary movies and war propaganda lacked artistic merit.



IRAQ, IRAN SHAKE HANDS: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) shakes hands with Iranian health minister Ali Reza Marandi, Saturday, in Baghdad. Mr. Marandi delivered a message from Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inviting President Hussein to attend an Organisation of Islamic Conference summit in Tehran in December. Mr. Marandi visited several hospitals during his visit and discussed future cooperation with Iraq which is facing a shortage of medicine (AFP photo)

## Israel proposes greenhouses as new way to annex east Jerusalem suburb

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Agriculture Minister Raphael Eytan is trying to convince Jewish settlers to build greenhouses in a strategic Arab east Jerusalem suburb as a step towards annexation of the area, a settler said Monday.

Mr. Eytan, a former army chief of staff and fierce opponent of the Oslo peace accords, made the proposal to a far-right religious movement, Ateret Cohanim, which spearheads efforts to increase the Jewish presence in east Jerusalem, an official of the group told AFP.

"We are interested in the idea and plan to discuss it further with Eytan Tuesday

during a tour of the site," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Mr. Eytan's plan concerns 10 hectares of land in Abu Dis, an Arab village that straddles the boundary between Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The land in question was purchased by Jews about 30 years ago and lies in the 10 per cent of Abu Dis situated inside the Jerusalem municipal boundaries. The rest of the village is in a West Bank zone under the administrative control of Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Last year the right-wing

Jerusalem city government earmarked \$90 million to build a Jewish settlement in the east Jerusalem sector of Abu Dis.

The neighbourhood is part of a broader plan to develop a Jewish corridor from east Jerusalem to the settlement of Maale Adumim about five kilometres to the east — land that Israel hopes eventually to annex as part of a greater Jerusalem.

The project has been left in limbo so as not to worsen the current crisis in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

According to Haaretz, Mr. Eytan's plan is to get the greenhouses built quickly in Abu Dis to hinder any Palestinian attempts to gain

control of the area before the bigger settlement project can be formally launched.

Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967.

The Palestinians want to make east Jerusalem the capital of a future state and the Oslo peace accords require Israel to negotiate the final status of the area.

A compromise proposal floated by Yossi Beilin, an opposition Labour deputy and architect of the Oslo accords, offered to let the Palestinians set up their capital in Abu Dis, to be renamed Al Quds, the Arabic name for Jerusalem.

## Israel, Nigeria sign 'soft expulsion' agreement on illegal aliens

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and Nigeria have reached agreement on a plan giving illegal Nigerian workers a three-month grace period to prepare for their orderly return home, the Interior Ministry announced Sunday.

Under the agreement, illegal Nigerian immigrants who sign up with their embassy in Tel Aviv will be given three months to ready themselves to leave the country, for example by selling furniture or other belongings.

During the grace period, Israeli police promise not to arrest or expel the illegal workers. Action will be taken if they fail to leave the country by the end of the three months, the ministry said.

Ministry officials said they hoped to reach similar agreements with countries whose nationals make up the bulk of the estimated 100,000 illegal foreign workers in Israel.

The largest groups of illegal aliens come from Romania, Thailand and the Philippines, although there are also many from West Africa.

Israel has brought in about 100,000 legal foreign workers to replace Palestinians prevented from reaching day jobs inside Israel by repeated security closures of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Another 100,000 foreigners have entered the country illegally in recent years, many of them concentrated in rundown neighbourhoods of Tel Aviv.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced various plans to reduce the number of foreign workers and has even set up internment camps for illegal immigrants awaiting expulsion.

## Israel to question deputies in 'Russian mafia' probe

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police plan to question seven deputies, including two ministers and the leader of the opposition, in an investigation into an alleged Russian crime boss, parliamentary officials said Sunday.

Zvi Ben Ari, also known as Grigori Lerner, 47, was arrested last month on suspicion of defrauding Russian banks of \$85 million and involvement in the murder or attempted murder of Russian bankers and anti-crime campaigners.

Israeli public television said deputies facing questioning include the new leader of the opposition Labour Party, Ehud Barak, Trade and Industry

Minister Nathan Sharansky and Immigration Minister Yuli Edelstein.

Mr. Sharansky, a former Soviet prisoner of conscience, and Mr. Edelstein are both members of the immigrant-based Israeli B'Aliya Party.

Israeli media reports say police suspect that Lerner, considered the most powerful crime boss in Israel, tried to buy into politics, and possibly gain seats in parliament and the cabinet, before May 1996 elections.

Lerner is also suspected of immigrating to Israel under a false identity and of trying to fraudulently set up a bank in the country.

On Sunday a court near Tel Aviv ordered Lerner to

be detained for another seven days, but urged police and public ministry officials to lay charges as he has already been held for 40 days, judicial sources said.

Last Sunday, Nissim Zvili, the Labour Party's former general secretary, was questioned by police about his links with Lerner.

Israel has taken in more than 700,000 emigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1989, but organised crime figures have profited from the influx to build a wide-ranging network active in prostitution, money laundering, drug trafficking and illegal gambling, police say.

## Sinead says she did not know 'Two capitals for two states' concert was life threatening

The Jerusalem Post

SINEAD O'CONNOR was not aware that the Bat Shalom concert in support of sharing Jerusalem, at which she was to appear last week, was going to turn into such a volatile issue.

"If I had known it would be so controversial, and it was going to end up with my life being threatened, I wouldn't have agreed to perform," she told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday, in her first response to the affair.

O'Connor cancelled her appearance, which was supposed to have taken place last Saturday night, in support of Bat Shalom and the concept "Two capitals for two states," after the British embassy received a phone call threatening her life.

"I was approached by a

Palestinian women's group to do a concert for peace in Jerusalem. I'm 100 per cent in support of sharing Jerusalem," she said, adding that she thought it was a universal theme which had widespread support.

"I don't live in Israel, and I'm not interested in getting involved in its internal politics. I have nothing but love for the Jewish and the Palestinian people, and I feel sorry for the children growing up in a war-torn country. I also come from a war-torn country," the Irish singer said in a phone conversation from London.

O'Connor refuted claims by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert that the concert had been cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

"If I wasn't going to sell a lot of tickets, then the death threat would not have

[been] made in the first place," she said.

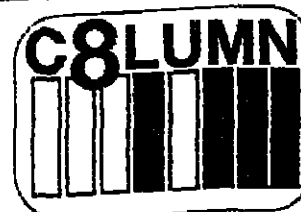
Over the weekend, O'Connor sent an open letter to Itamar Ben-Gvir, a right-wing extremist who had bragged he had scared the Irish singer away.

"God does not reward those who bring terror to the children of the world. So you have succeeded in nothing but your soul's failure," O'Connor wrote.

Ben-Gvir is a member of the Ideological Front, an offshoot of the outlawed Kach movement.

O'Connor jokingly issued a "formal complaint" that the death threat was directed to the British embassy and not the Irish embassy.

"Hew knew I was popular, he just didn't know where I was from," she said.



### Burglar chief says he stole to marry off his daughter

CAIRO (AFP) — A man who ran a ring of child burglars in the northern Egyptian city of Alexandria told police who arrested him that he needed the money so his daughter could get married. Al Aham newspaper said Monday. The burglar chief, who was not identified, would use a blowtorch to make an opening in paint stores' iron curtains large enough for the children to enter, the paper said. They would then steal cans of paint. The man made 50,000 Egyptian pounds from the ring. When police arrested him Sunday, he said he committed the thefts to get the money for his daughter's trousseau.

### Women found to be better drivers in Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) — Police have found women to be better drivers and to cause less accidents than men because they respect traffic laws, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily said Monday. Lieutenant Colonel Issa Aman of the traffic department in Dubai, quoted in Emirates news, said statistics show that men are to blame for more crashes through reckless driving and failure to respect the code of the road. But the officer, who gave no accident figures, criticised women for speeding and illegal parking.

### Egyptian religious official led double life

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian prayer leader, or imam, led a double life with two wives who each had five children the same age, sex and with the same names, but he was not found out until he died, a weekly newspaper reported. Before Sayed Mustafa Ibrahim was killed in a car accident, he was imam of the mosque in his village Inshass in the Nile Delta, about 50 kilometres north of Cairo, but also worked for a company at Abu Zabal about 15 kilometres from there. He had a home in each place: One legal, in Inshass, and the other clandestine, in Abu Zabal. In another twist, his mistress was also his stepdaughter, from a first wife whom he had divorced. Over the years, both women had children "born almost at the same time and of the same sex" and he had them recorded "two by two under the same name." The two women came face-to-face at the police station where each had been called to identify Ibrahim's body.

### Kohl shuns limos for tour bus at G7 summit

DENVER (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton brought Western informality to the Group of Seven (G7) summit here, but bulky German Chancellor Helmut Kohl contributed some populist style by travelling to and from sessions in a tour bus. Kohl, who overshadows fellow world leaders at these annual meetings, regularly shuns the black Mercedes Cadillac or Zil limousines his other partners prefer. The chancellor now regularly uses a roomy bus on his travels abroad because of his size — he stands 1.93 metres tall and tips the scales at around 115 kilos. "It's a lot more comfortable," Kohl, 67, told ZDF Television in an interview. "When I'm in a car, I'm cooped up — that has something to do with a figure and my height, my head almost always bumps up against the ceiling."